



CHATTAHOOCHEE FOREST

*National Fish Hatchery**Kelly Taylor, Hatchery Manager***VOLUNTEER LETTER****New Hatchery Manager**

Kelly Taylor has been promoted to Hatchery Manager at Chattahoochee Forest NFH following the 2014 retirement of Deborah Burger. Taylor received his bachelor's degree in Biology from Georgia Southern in 1992 and began working at Bo Ginn National Fish Hatchery in Millen, GA, as animal caretaker (NTE 1 year) in 1994. In 1996, Taylor served as a tractor operator at Bo Ginn being employed half-time by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the other by the state of Georgia (wearing a federal uniform half of each week and a state uniform the other). Bo Ginn NFH ceased operation by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1996 and transferred to State of Georgia Park Systems, resulting in Taylor's transfer to animal caretaker at Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery in Jamestown, KY, then to Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery in 1999 where he gained permanent employment status and served as a

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Fishery Biologist since 2000. Since 2004, Taylor has served in management capacity and at a supervisory level since 2006. In 2008, Taylor was also delegated the task of temporarily serving as Acting Hatchery Manager for Erwin National Fish Hatchery, in Erwin, TN. Finally, Taylor has served as Acting Hatchery Manager at Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery since April 2014 leading to the official promotion to Hatchery Manager effective January 10, 2016.

**Congratulations,
Kelly!!!**

Construction Complete

"Yes, that's correct! Construction is finally complete," says Kelly Taylor. Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery re-opened its doors to visitors on September 9, 2015, after being closed to visitation since August 4, 2014. The year-long project resulted in the re-construction of 18 outdoor raceways that should successfully support the trout rearing process for many more years to come. Fortunately, 2015 fish rearing and stocking were virtually unaffected by the construction as scheduled stockings and production numbers were fulfilled.

The new raceways are already in use and awaiting visitors as shown on following page with Mitch Pickelsimer pictured. Stop by and see us during visitor hours Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (closed on federal holidays). Please always call in advance of visiting as there are other conditions such as weather that could result in visitor gates being closed.

Volunteers



Trout 2016

We should begin our regular stocking season around late-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.

For stocking information, check local newspapers and follow our Just for Fun page on Facebook. "Like" the page to get the latest at www.facebook.com/RockCreekFishHatchery. Please let us know what you'd like to see on Facebook and what you think about the page.

Stay up-to-date on Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations by visiting www.gofishgeorgia.com.



Economic Data



**What does
Chattahoochee
Forest National
Fish Hatchery do
for your local
economy?**

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.

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

Last Year's Events

The hatchery hosts four annual fishing events. Unfortunately, the 2015 fishing events were canceled due to the raceway construction project. We greatly appreciate all the understanding and support provided by the community, volunteers, participants, Friends of the Hatchery, and other agencies as cancellations were inevitably made with safety at the forefront of decision making.

The hatchery provided trout eggs to schools participating in Trout in the Classroom under sponsorship of Trout Unlimited. Schools included Fannin County Middle School, Gilmer County High School, Clear Creek Middle School (Gilmer), and Lumpkin County High School. Other environmental education and outreach included presentations for the University of Georgia Environmental Day, Scott Hogsed Youth Day, visits to schools, etc. 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. (Trout Unlimited volunteers pictured below.)



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 (below), 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 2014. I was tasked to take over her duties and responsibilities until the vacancy could be filled. These are big shoes to fill, but a challenge I had been awaiting. On January 10, 2016, I was officially promoted to Hatchery Manager.

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 Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery.

If you have been following on Facebook, you will know that last year was consumed with construction here at the hatchery. Eighteen raceways and existing supply lines and drain lines, were re-constructed. Now that the construction is complete, we will once again be able to focus strictly on serving the American people through trout mitigation, partnerships and services.

The budget for the upcoming year looks good. We are still receiving money from the Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Valley Authority. However, it is an election year which could bring changes for the future.

I look forward to a great upcoming year. We are ready to begin stocking soon and have already set dates fishing events. If you have questions, call the hatchery office at 706-838-4723 or follow our Just for Fun page on Facebook www.facebook.com/RockCreekFishHatchery. Hope to see you all on the creek banks this spring!!

– *Kelly*

2016 Fishing Events

Chattahoochee Forest NFH Volunteers needed. Please mark your calendar!

Veterans Fishing Rodeo – May 6th 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 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (May 12th is inclement weather date). Open to special needs youth. Limited slots/pre-registration required.

Seniors – June 3rd 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 4th 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!

