

Fall/Winter 2016-17

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
CHATTAHOOCHEE FOREST NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY  
KELLY TAYLOR, HATCHERY MANAGER

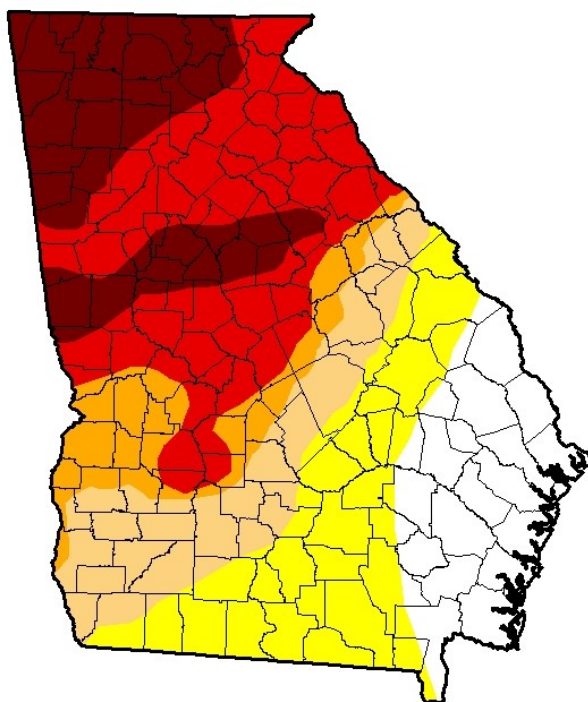
## Never-ending Summer

Summer or fall? It is the question most of us have contemplated for the past few weeks. The unusually warmer than normal temperatures in combination with the lack of rainfall, better known as drought, has certainly taken its toll

in many ways. From little or no water flow in streams to forest fires across north Georgia, our beautiful mountain area has suffered the consequences. Hatchery staff have worked diligently to sustain trout production as warmer tempera-

tures and drought have complicated things to say the least. The long-awaited, cooler fall nights are helpful but we need rain!

### U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia



November 8, 2016

(Released Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	15.69	84.31	64.43	50.53	42.02	17.22
Last Week 11/1/2016	26.41	73.59	57.84	49.92	39.57	14.00
3 Months Ago 8/9/2016	31.85	68.15	44.75	30.41	8.83	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/29/2015	87.36	12.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/27/2016	35.37	64.63	45.84	34.50	14.67	1.58
One Year Ago 11/10/2015	91.60	8.40	1.73	0.00	0.00	0.00

#### Intensity

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

#### Author:

Deborah Bathke  
National Drought Mitigation Center



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

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#### Special points of interest:

- Stocking As Usual
- 2016 Events Huge Success
- Volunteers Needed
- 2017 Fishing Events

## Delayed Harvest and 2017 Trout Stocking Season

Delayed Harvest (DH) stocking is going full blast! To the right, Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited is pictured with Cory Ingram, Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery, and John Lee Thompson, Georgia DNR, after stocking the Toccoa River DH on November 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information about the DH and regulations, please visit [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com).

The 2017 trout stocking season is projected to begin as usual around late-March and be in full distribution mode by April. The 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 on Facebook.

“Like” the page to get the latest at [www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh](http://www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh). Please let us know what you’d like to see on Facebook and what you think about the page.



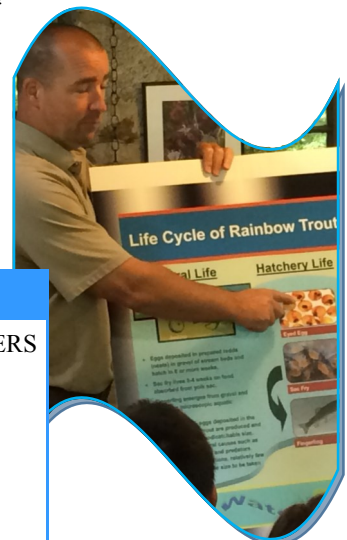
## Return To Fishing Events 2016

The hatchery hosts four annual fishing events. Unfortunately, the 2015 fishing events were canceled due to the raceway construction project. We greatly appreciated 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 return to fishing events in 2016 was a huge success thanks

to continued support by these same groups of caring people.



Additionally, the hatchery recently provided trout eggs to schools participating in Trout in the Classroom under sponsorship of Trout Unlimited. Other environmental education and outreach included presentations for the University of Georgia Environmental Day, Scott Hogsed Youth Day, visits to schools, tours/field trips to the hatchery, etc. These are just some of the educational and outreach events that the hatchery participates in every year. We stay busy!



### 2016 Fishing Events

DATE	EVENT	#ATTENDANCE	#VOLUNTEERS
May 6	Veterans Appreciation	150	25
May 11	Special Kids	200	75
June 3	Seniors	200	25
June 4	Family Fishing	900	50

## Economic Impact



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.

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

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

## Volunteers and Friends of the Hatchery

We are in need of volunteers to assist with annual fishing events. 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. Stop by or call the hatchery office 706-838-4723 if interested.

Also, if you are retired or working as a seasonal/temporary laborer and are looking for a great way to spend extra time, check out [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov) where the federal government goes to find volunteers who are interested in devoting their time to assist in serving the American people.

Friends of 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 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 annual fishing and environmental education events.

*"Make a difference and join today!"*



FRIENDS OFFICERS	
<b>President</b>	Roger Schulz
<b>Vice President</b>	Deborah Burger
<b>Secretary</b>	Nancy Mims
<b>Treasurer</b>	Marilyn Parrott
<b>Board Members</b>	Dan Mims, Robin Mims, Stephen Tanner, Charles Broom, Ann Broom, Lindsey Keef, Robert Thomas

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

## Note from the Manager

### **CHATTAHOOCHEE FOREST NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY**

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***Go fishing!***

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chattahoocheeforestnfh](https://www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh)**

2016 was an exciting year for Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery. The hatchery gained a new employee in 2016, Mr. Cory Ingram. Cory was hired in April through the Veterans Recruitment Authority (VRA) and is filling a term position as a Motor Vehicle Operator. Cory has been a major asset to the Chattahoochee family and is getting to know his way around hatchery life quickly. We hope to have him around for a very long time.

The hatchery had a great year in fish production and put out some amazing fish. Even though the regular stocking season is over, we are still putting fish in the Delayed Harvest sections. For more information please call the hatchery or visit our Facebook page. All four of the hatchery sponsored fishing events in 2016 were a huge success, mostly due to huge turnout of volunteers that came out and supported each event. Without your help these events would not be possible, so Thanks for making them great.

The hatchery has done some other great things in 2016. We have had the pleasure of being able to get out and spread the word of our hatchery works to the local schools, private organizations, and outdoor youth events. It's an important job to spread the word on just what and why we do what we do. We've also been able to help jump start a fascinating program initiated by Trout Unlimited called Trout in the Classroom. This program gives the kids a chance to grow trout in their classroom, with eggs or fry provided by the hatchery, and watch and care for them throughout the rearing cycle. It's a program that not only covers the fundamentals of the science curriculum, but also has the kids dabble in Math, English, and Technology. It's a great program and both the kids and teachers learn a lot from the program.

In 2017, the hatchery will be working with other species other than trout. We've been helping GA DNR out with studies on Bog Turtles for the past few years. In 2016, the hatchery built an artificial mountain bog to house these turtles. The hatchery will receive turtles from the Knoxville Zoo, with the goal of propagation of these animals to restock some of the bogs in the North Georgia area. Another project we will be undertaking will be to create a 6500 square foot area for pollinators and Monarch butterfly habitat.

The end of 2016 has seen one of the worst droughts in years. Hatchery records show that we have had a 48% reduction in water flow from this time this year to this time last year.

While rain doesn't seem to be coming anytime soon, we are still marching ahead with production and shouldn't have any problems with making sure there are plenty of trout for opening day of stocking season. With the severe drought conditions comes increased fire behavior. Two of our crew members have been aiding in the efforts of fire suppression. Mr. Terry Callihan has been aiding the USFS on the Rough Ridge fire and I have been aiding the USFS with many of the local fires in the area. Well that about wraps up 2016 in a nutshell. Hope to see you all on the creek banks when stocking season rolls around. Until then, have a safe and wonderful Holiday Season.

*- Kelly*



## 2017 Fishing Events—Mark Your Calendar!

**Veterans Appreciation Fishing Rodeo** – May 5<sup>th</sup>  
from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

**Special Kids** – May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Limited slots/pre-registration required.

**Seniors** – June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Open to adults ages 55 and older.

**Family Fishing Festival** – June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Open to youth ages 16 and under.

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

