

Chattahoochee Forest

National Fish Hatchery



Early Snow

Snow came to the North Georgia Mountains early this year with flurries in October and 8-12 inches in early December. The accumulation was much needed to help with drought conditions. More snow and rain will be welcomed throughout the winter months as amounts are needed to replenish and maintain water table levels. Nevertheless, the hatchery team will continue to work diligently to sustain trout production/rearing as warm temperatures and drought complicated matters throughout the summer. ❖

Delayed Harvest and 2018 Trout Stocking Season

Delayed Harvest (DH) stocking is going full blast! Chattahoochee Forest NFH and Georgia Department of Natural Resources with volunteers from Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited #696 have teamed up for DH stockings on the Toccoa River where some beautiful Rainbow and Brook Trout have been placed. For more information about the DH and regulations, please visit www.gofishgeorgia.com.

The 2018 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 "like" the hatchery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh. 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. ❖



Kelly Taylor

Project Leader

Chattahoochee Forest NFH

4730 Rock Creek Road

Suches, GA 30572

Phone: 706/838 4723

Fax: 706/838 4626

kelly_taylor@fws.gov

February 2018



Events & Activities

The hatchery hosts four annual fishing events – Veterans Appreciation, Special Kids, Seniors and Family Fishing (see 2018 dates on last page). The 2017 events were a huge success due to the support provided by all the wonderful volunteers!!! With 2018 events quickly approaching, we will need lots of volunteer support as always.

Without dedicated volunteers like you, these events would not be possible. In addition to annual fishing events, the hatchery has provided trout eggs to schools throughout the north Georgia area participating in Trout Unlimited's Trout in the Classroom Program. Other education and outreach presentations include the University of Georgia Environmental Day, Scott Hogsed Youth Day, Fannin County's Trout Fest, Hamilton Gardens Earth 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! ❖



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	
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
Economic Boast	North Georgia

Friends of the Hatchery

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. Friends will gladly accept any donations and your membership fee alone will greatly assist with annual fishing and environmental education events. For more information about friends, please visit the website mastered by Friends Board Member Larry Bundy at www.friendsofchattahoocheefh.org. ♦

"Make a difference and join today!"



Friends Officers	
President	Roger Schulz
Vice President	Deborah Burger
Secretary	Nancy Mims
Treasurer	Marilyn Parrott
Board Members	Larry Bundy Marcus Tuschel Dena Gooch Roger Owenby Dan Mims Stephen Tanner Lindsey Keef Charles Broom



President's Message

Friends of
Chattahoochee Forest
National Fish Hatchery

have been supporting the hatchery for the past 14 years. The Friends Group is a 501©3 non-profit group that raises funds through membership fees and donations to provide t-shirts, hats, food, fishing supplies, prizes, and educational materials for annual fishing events held at the hatchery. We were incorporated in 2003. Looking back at this past year, the Friends Group has been very active in many areas.

Received a \$500 donation from Trout Unlimited to support our many educational events and our annual fishing rodeo.

Added two new members to the Friends Group Board – Larry Bundy and Marcus Tuschel.

Assisted the hatchery with the following events: Veterans Fishing Day, Handicap Fishing Day, Family Fishing Day and Senior Fishing Day.

Purchased caps, visors, and removable window sticker to promote the Friends Group and to serve as a money maker.

Signed off on the Friends Partnership Agreement with the hatchery.

Monitoring Congressional Budget Appropriations for FY 2018 as it pertains to Chattahoochee Forest NFH.

I want to thank our Officers and Board members – Larry Bundy, Marcus Tuschel, Dena Gooch, Roger Owenby, Stephen Tanner, Lindsey Keef, Marilyn Parrott (Treasurer), Nancy Mims (Secretary) and Deborah Burger (Vice President). This past year everyone worded together for the benefit of the hatchery. We also want to thank the hatchery crew, Hatchery Manager Kelly Taylor and Program Assistant Crystal Thomas.

This coming year we will continue to work closely with the hatchery on special events throughout the year. We also hope to help the hatchery with any special project that they feel we need to be working on.

Over the many years in which the Friends Group has been working with the hatchery, I believe we have really made a difference. We have been able to develop a real partnership with the hatchery. This is especially critical during difficult times when the mitigation program of the hatchery was being analyzed. Working with

the hatchery and with Congressional support we have been able to get steady funding for the hatchery.

Please remember to visit the Friends site for continued updates and information www.friendsofchattahoocheefh.org. ♦

To our many members and volunteers, I thank you

Roger Schulz

President

Friends of Chattahoochee Forest
National Fish Hatchery

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4730 Rock Creek Road
Suches, Georgia 30572



www.friendsofchattahoocheefh.org

Check out the Friends link above for more information and to join now!

Volunteer is defined as:

“A person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service”

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/volunteer>
(Dec 2017).

At Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery, we like to take the definition a few steps further with key words that further describe our volunteers: hard working, loyal, dedicated, dependable, enthusiastic, creative, thoughtful, caring, kind, compassionate, brilliant, wonderful, and so much more!

Here's just a few pics of some of Chattahoochee's volunteers. To all volunteers who help in so many ways, "We could not do it without you! Thank you! You are greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you in 2018!"



Note from the Project Leader...

Go fishing!

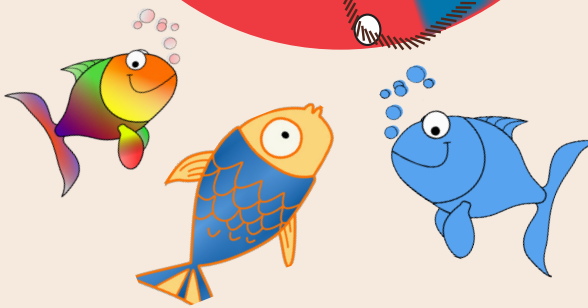
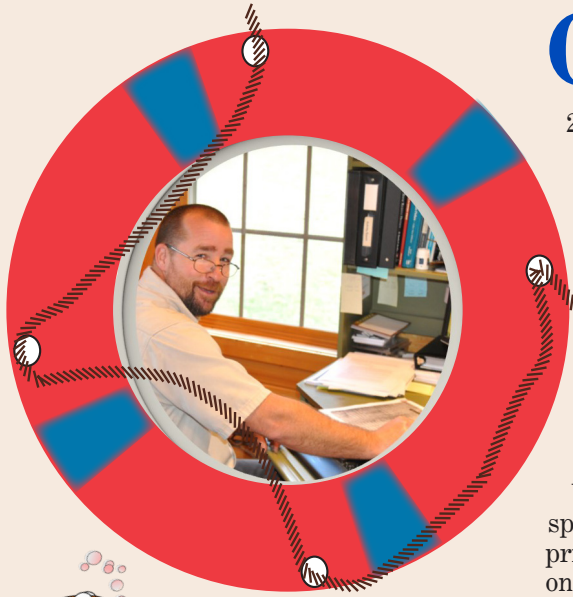
2017 was a great year in fish production and the hatchery put out some amazing fish. Even though the regular stocking season is over, we are still putting fish in the Delayed Harvest sections. For more information please call the hatchery or visit our Facebook page. All four of the hatchery sponsored fishing events in 2017 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 and help spreading the joy of fishing to our youth.

The hatchery has done some other great things in 2017. We have had the pleasure of being able to get out and spread the word of our hatchery works in the local schools, to private organizations, and at outdoor youth events. Twenty-one different outreach events to be exact. It is an important job to spread the word on just what and why we do what we do. We have also been able to help jump start ten different Trout in the Classroom programs this year. 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 use their Math, English, and Technology skills. It's a great program and both the kids and teachers learn a lot from the program.

In 2018, will see the hatchery again working with other species other than trout. We will continue helping GA DNR out with surveys on Bog Turtles and Eastern Hellbenders. In 2016, the hatchery built an artificial mountain bog to house these turtles. Although the hatchery did not receive turtles from the Knoxville Zoo, due to some paperwork being lost we hope to have them in their new home in Spring of 2018. Another project we will be undertaking will be to create a 6500 square foot area for pollinators and Monarch butterfly habitat.

The 2016 drought has carried over into the 2017, but finally got some much needed rain in March. Production efforts for the year march on and we should have no problems with making sure there are plenty of trout for opening day of stocking season. Well that about wraps up 2017 in a nutshell. Hope to see you all on the creek banks when stocking season rolls around.

-Kelly



2018 Fishing Events—Mark Your Calendar!

Veterans Appreciation Fishing Rodeo – May 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Special Kids Fishing Rodeo – May 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Limited slots/pre-registration required/invitation only children with severe needs – coordinated through local schools/groups. Lots of volunteers needed!

Seniors Fishing Rodeo – June 1st from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Open to adults ages 55 and older.

Kids Fishing Rodeo – June 2nd 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!

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