



CHATTAHOOCHEE FOREST

*National Fish Hatchery**Deborah Burger, Hatchery Manager*

VOLUNTEER LETTER



Trout for 2013

As things stand now, we will be doing all of our regular stocking for 2013 (March thru Labor Day). Currently, we are operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) which runs out at the end of March. Some of our stocking may be affected when the final budget comes through, but we won't know that until we see it.

The National Fish Hatchery System has operated with an extremely tight budget for several years, even as its operating costs have risen significantly. This has been especially true in the Southeast region which has suffered base erosion due to a succession of flat and/or declining hatchery budgets that did not keep up with inflation and spiraling fuel, utilities, and feed costs.

Under the FY 2013 Continuing Resolution (CR), the Southeast Region's Fisheries Program experienced a severe hatchery budget shortfall. On April 1, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will have to make some decisions regarding this huge budget shortfall. Last year's shortfall was supported by Congress and money was restored to the fisheries budget to cover the shortfall. The language basically said that Congress supports our trout hatcheries and what we do and that federal trout hatcheries were to be fully funded.

Thanks to the hard work by Terry, Mitch, Kelly, and Jamey, we have some beautiful fish to stock out. We have beautiful brook trout as well as rainbows. The cooler weather and rain sure are a big help. Keep an eye out on www.gofishgeorgia.com for the upcoming 2013 trout season dates and regulations.

New Economic Data

Hot off the press economic data shows that the Chattahoochee Forest NFH fish production supports more than 330 jobs, with an **economic output of \$30.3 million!** Retail sales associated with angler expenditures as a result of stocking trout by the Chattahoochee Forest NFH amounted to \$16 million. Almost \$5 million of these expenditures relate to costs for food and lodging and

transportation. **Each taxpayer dollar spent for trout production at the hatchery generates \$40.47 in economic output.**

For example, a family purchases a set of fishing rods for an upcoming vacation. Part of the total purchase price will go to the local retailer. The retail store pays a wholesaler who in turn pays the manufacturer. In this way, each dollar of local retail expenditures can affect a variety of businesses at local, regional and national levels. The economic impact is felt by everyone, not just those associated with selling fishing equipment. This is especially true in small towns and rural areas near the waters that are stocked by the Chattahoochee Forest NFH and where the purchases of fishing equipment, license, lodging, food, and transportation are made. Let's keep Fannin County the Trout Capitol of Georgia!

Last Year's Fishing Events

The 2012 fishing events were a huge success, thanks to all of you wonderful volunteers. Friends of the Hatchery, Trout Unlimited and other volunteers provided hundreds of dollars worth of food, prizes and educational materials and supplies for 150 + participants at the Veterans Appreciation, 200+ participants at the Special Kids Rodeo, 250+ participants at the Seniors Rodeo, and 800+ in attendance at the Family Fishing Festival. In addition, many hours of volunteer work were also provided. These extra special events would not be possible without you. Please note the dates for the 2013 events on page 3.

In addition to our annual fishing events, the hatchery provides several hundred eggs to various school groups in support of the Trout in the Classroom programs. We also provided outreach events for the University of Georgia Environmental Day, Project Healing Waters, Sam Hogsed Youth Hunting and Fishing Conservation Day, Wildgame Supper at House of Prayer, Fannin County High School Career Day, Woody Gap Agricultural Day, and the Alternative Education Program. We also participated in the annual Rivers Alive Cleanup. The Union County Chamber of Commerce and

Windstream did an excellent outreach video of the hatchery and our program that is now airing on Channel 4 Comcast Network. These are just some of the educational and outreach events that the hatchery participates in every year. As you can see, we stay busy!

We are in need of volunteers. If you have the time and could possibly help with any of our events, please call us. We need help 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 SO MUCH TO ALL OF OUR LOYAL VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK HARD YEAR AFTER YEAR TO MAKE THESE EVENTS SUCH A HUGE SUCCESS!

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 at \$20.00 or less 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!**

Manager's Corner

This is going to be the best year we've ever had. 2013 is our year!! I'm sure a lot of people are asking how I can possibly say that with the threat of hatchery closure, reduced fish production, layoffs, and worse. I can say that because God is good and He's good all the time. We have always had tremendous support from our community, our fishermen and women, our Friends Group, Trout Unlimited, local papers, local businesses, etc., etc! You have made such a difference and you kept us going!! Just the fact that Congress and Senate restored our funding and supported our efforts last

year in such lean times, shows how much influence you have in keeping us open. The "grassroots" support really paid off.

We have some absolutely beautiful fish to stock and we look forward to seeing everybody....out on the creek banks and at our fishing events! You are going to have a great fishing season!

In closing, I would just like to say that all of us here appreciate our jobs; we love what we do and who we do it for (all our wonderful fishermen!). Our goal is to provide you with a wonderful fishing experience. I would also like to thank all of you for all you have done and continue to do for us. It means more than you know.

– Del

2013 Fishing Events

**CLIP and SAVE
Chattahoochee Forest NFH
2013 Fishing Events
Volunteers needed. Please, mark
your calendar!**

Veterans Fishing Rodeo – May 10th 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 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (May 9th is inclement weather date). Open to special needs youth. Limited slots/pre-registration required.

Seniors – June 7th 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 8th 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!