



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



**VOLUNTEER LETTER**

# Trout 2014

The rainbow and brook trout have survived the winter very well. They love the cold water and all this rain and snow! We just recently stocked the Toccoa River Delayed Harvest area and the Toccoa River (tailwaters) below the dam. 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. We now have a Facebook page, so follow us on Facebook. It is listed as the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery and we will be 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.

The budget situation (hatchery closure) should be settled for this fiscal year which runs from October 1, 2013, thru September 30, 2014. Congress has specifically said that no funding will be used to close fish hatcheries. We will try and keep you informed as we progress through this year and into next.



Keep an eye out on [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com) for the upcoming 2014 trout season dates and regulations.

# Economic Data

What does Chattahoochee Forest NFH 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

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.

The hatchery hosts four annual fishing events. The 2013 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.

# Last Year's Events

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



2013  
Family Fishing  
Festival

Grady Rogers with  
daughters,  
Gracie & Summer

The hatchery provides trout eggs to schools participating in Trout in the Classroom as well as educational outreach for the University of Georgia Environmental Day, Project Healing Waters, Fannin County Middle School Career Day, 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. As you can see, 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.



Members of House of Prayer Church in Blairsville generously donate their time to assist with the Special Kids Fishing Rodeo. Thank you!



Trout Unlimited members generously devote their time to assist with all four annual fishing events held at the hatchery. They provide donations and food and are always eager to assist participants with fishing. Thank you!

**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](http://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.



The grounds look great thanks to Mr. Rider who is pictured trimming the grape vines. Thank you, Floyd!

# 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!**



*Marilyn Parrott served as president of the Friends Group for a number of years. Ms. Parrott currently serves as Vice President and Treasurer. This dual role is a daunting task and one that must be carefully entrusted to a member who is knowledgeable and fully dedicated to the Friends Group. Thank you, Marilyn!*

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



*Nancy Mims currently serves as Secretary of the Friends Group. As a retired educator, Ms. Mims is very active in planning for annual fishing events especially the Special Kids Fishing Rodeo. Thank you, Nancy!*



*Roger Schulz pictured with hatchery manager, Deborah Burger, became president of the Friends Group in June 2013. Mr. Schulz brings a wealth of knowledge in fisheries and conservation to the group. Mr. Schulz is highly respected and well known by members of the group as he has been an active member for a number of years. Thank you, Roger!*

# Manager's Corner

2014 has arrived. And with it, lots of very good things. Our budget woes seem to be working themselves out. The 2014 budget recently passed by both the House and Senate, and signed by the President, looks promising and the hatchery closure situation has been put off for another year. Lots of things can and will change in the next year, and we will all work hard to make sure the hatchery has another fifty years of being fully funded and operational. I plan to retire in early April. After more than thirty-six years, I am excitedly planning the next part of my life. I do want to say “thank you” to all of you for having made my life richer. God puts people and things in your life for a reason, and I so appreciate all the love and support each of you have given me over the years. God blessed me with a job that I loved, and people that I loved to work with. We have had some wonderful times and done some amazing things. I plan on being very involved with the Friends group and hope that many of you will be there to help! We have lots of things that we need to work on. The first, and foremost, will be to keep this hatchery open and as a Federal hatchery operating under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I look forward to working with all of you to make that happen!

– *Del*

# 2014 Fishing Events

## CLIP and SAVE Chattahoochee Forest NFH 2014 Fishing Events Volunteers needed. Please, mark your calendar!

**Veterans Fishing Rodeo** – May 9<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (May 15<sup>th</sup> is inclement weather date). Open to special needs youth. Limited slots/pre-registration required.

**Seniors** – June 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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!**



*Larry King, volunteer, is pictured with Katie Dyer after assisting her catch rainbow trout at the Special Kids Fishing Rodeo.*