The Chattooga Quarterly

Fall ◆◆◆ 1994

Battle Line Drawn on Rabun Bald

Looking at the Big Picture

by Chris Kempton

This spring, the Coalition started a new project which will measure the effects of the last 20 years of US Forest Service management and private development on the watershed. In a joint effort, led by Dr. Kerry Brooks at Clemson University, we are conducting a two-period change detection analysis of the Chattooga River watershed using satellite imagery in conjunction with a Geographic Information System (GIS).

Did I say satellites? Sure, satellite pictures are one of the best ways to get a good look at the landscape of the Chattooga watershed. If we keep using the old Forest Service maps we are prone to get stuck in the old stand-by-stand, compartment-by-compartment analysis that has caused so much grief in the past. By using satellite images we can get a look at large areas, get information about private lands (which the USFS lacks), and even go back 20 years and see what it looked like then. And we can measure it all using the GIS.

Basically, the process involves taking two snapshots in time -- one before and one after. The computer categorizes what it sees (and it *sees* much more than we can) based upon the spectral signature of forest types, rock, pasture, water, etc. in both images. The computer then compares the two and picks out changes. We will be focusing on changes in the amount of early successional habitat resulting from timber harvesting, land

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On Thursday August 24 the U.S. Forest Service announced it was withdrawing a proposal to build a road and harvest timber in compartment 32 of the Rabun Bald Roadless Area. The announcement marked a small, temporary victory in what promises to be a larger battle looming ahead. To fully understand the implications of what would otherwise seem to be an encouraging decision, a historical perspective is required.

For over two years conservationists have struggled to force the Tallulah Ranger District to implement management policies that protect the character of our native forest. But in 1992, after little success, the Rabun County Coalition to Save the Forest (RCCSF) became tired of empty promises. The group obtained an injunction from federal district court in Gainesville, Georgia, which halted all timber sales activities in the Tallulah District, including compartment 32 which was in the Rabun Bald inventoried roadless area. The plaintiffs successfully argued that the Forest Service had failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. This law states that federal agencies must prepare Biological Evaluations before making decisions to harvest timber and build roads on federal land. Until this complaint was filed, the Forest Service was conducting the Biological Evaluations after the decisions were made, or not at all. RCCSF in this case argued that this backwards way of decision making was against the law, and clearly indicated a bias to meet timber targets. The Forest Service vehemently denied this charge. However, when forced to appear before a federal judge, they immediately withdrew their decision.

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Monitoring the Chattooga

by Nicole Hayler

Two of the most important things to monitor in the Chattooga watershed are the US Forest Service's proposed actions for our national forests and tracking the performance of the million-dollar Forest Service Chattooga River Ecosystem Management Demonstration Project.

Currently, most of the proposed on-the-ground actions are in Georgia. Over half of the Chattooga watershed lies in this state, most of it in national forest holdings scheduled for intensive timber extraction. Recently, Forest Service personnel on the Georgia side of the river issued 13 environmental assessments totaling nearly 1,000 pages of documents for public inspection and comments. Individually, these environmental assessments attempt to justify cutting the public forest using predominantly intensive "even-age" harvesting techniques (the same family as clearcutting), and building even more roads into an already heavily-roaded forest. Altogether, these proposed timber harvests would extract 11.5 million board feet of saw timber, 207,800 cubic feet of of pulpwood, and require the construction of 16.8 miles of various sorts of roads; these activities would generate an estimated 510 tons of silts and sediments that potentially will wind up in the Chattooga River (these figures are directly from Forest Service paperwork). Further, approximately 500 acres scheduled for cutting are in

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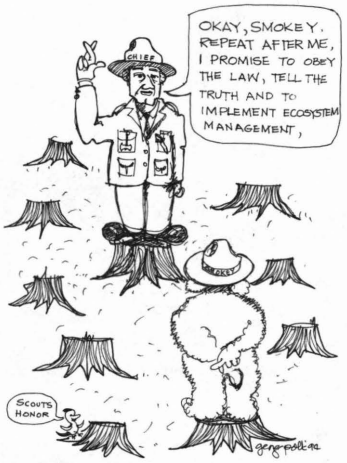
Director's Page

In the Spring of 1991 a small group of people formed the Chattooga River Watershed Coalition (CRWC). We represented a variety of conservation philosophies but the group had one idea in common, that the Chattooga watershed provided a significant opportunity to launch a great experiment to find a more holistic way to manage land for the public good. The Chattooga watershed is already 70% publicly owned and widely recognized for its unique natural character. A place like this would be a good starting point to muster support for our mission, to protect, promote, and restore the natural ecological integrity of the land. In effect the Chattooga could be used as a model for policy reform with wide ranging implications on both public and private lands.

We believe that the key to our success will depend on our ability to reach out to all citizens by articulating how our mission relates to them personally. To accomplish this we must concentrate on three specific objectives. First, we intend to use credible, contemporary scientific evidence to convince people that humans must respect natural ecosystems, which have within them the regenerative mechanisms best suited to provide us with clean air and water, fertile soil, food, medicine, forest products, recreational opportunities, and of course beauty. Second, we will provide factual evidence that current land management policies are inadequate to protect these resources. And finally, we must offer solutions.



What scientific evidence do we have for supporting a shift in management policy? Evidence is abundant. E.O. Wilson, the Nobel Prize winning author of The Diversity of Life (Harvard; Cambridge, 1992), tells us that "nothing is more important for the future of mankind than maintaining biological diversity." Other prominent ecologists such as Reed Noss maintain that the greatest threat to biological diversity is forest fragmentation (Strategies for Conservation of Old Growth; Speech, Corvalis, Oregon, 1988). Jerry Franklin, former Chief Plant Ecologist for the USDA Forest Service, states that "preserving biodiversity in temperate regions requires the maintenance of all successional stages. Since early successional stages are typically well represented, a major concern is preserving or recreating old-growth forest" (Biodiversity; National Academy Press, 1988). And finally, three scientists from the University of Michigan stated in a technical bulletin (*Endangered Species*; 1987) that "the cumulative effects of road building, timber harvests, and intentional creation of open areas for game have fragmented most forest lands into relatively small areas of mature vegetation embedded in a matrix of young forest... [which can] lead to deterioration of the biotic community."

These findings point clearly to a need for land management policy reform. In order to protect biological diversity we should concentrate on interim measures with the least risk involved while we conduct inventories of which habitat is critical for species in decline. In the East, as Franklin points out, the habitat most important for the maintenance of biodiversity is unfragmented late successional habitat. In the East our private land is already heavily effected by development. Most of the habitat critical for maintaining populations of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and animal communities exists within our national forests.

For this reason the CRWC has, so far, focused on national forest policy reform. Our initial request to the U.S. Forest Service to manage the Chattooga River watershed as an ecological unit based on the principles of landscape ecology and conservation biology has already influenced the Forest Service. Our request was the impetus for their "Chattooga River Watershed Ecosystem Management Demonstration Project".

Our staff has been carefully monitoring this "Demonstration Project" and has concluded that the agency is failing to implement significant on-the-ground changes for management of the watershed as a whole. The genuine attempts by dedicated Forest Service personnel assigned to the "Demonstration Project" have been largely ignored by line officers. Resistance to substantive change is inextricably linked to timber targets. Congressmen receiving large sums of money from the timber industry for their electoral campaigns put heavy pressure on agencies like the Forest Service to set and meet these targets. These quotas are tiered to outdated forest plans, which are based on old school science of the early 1980's. These plans are major obstacles to reform.

This reality has led us to the conclusion that the best way to free forest managers to introduce real reform is to inspire participation by the only group which has the power to demand real change - this of course is you! This newsletter is aimed at presenting you with the facts, and offering you ways to participate in the process of reform. Please consider the options we present for your involvement.

Buzz Williams
Executive Director

Archaeologist Digs Up Cherokee Town on the Chattooga

by Joshua Boyer

On bright June evening dozens of people stand in a field beside the Chattooga River, listening as archaeologist Gerald Schroedl conjures up the world of the eighteenth-century Cherokee. His description comes from materials found in excavations like the one directly behind him, a large, foot-and-a-half deep rectangular hole, the site of a Cherokee townhouse.

For six summers -- a long stretch for an archaeological dig, he says -- the University of Tennessee professor has been coming to this site, the Cherokee town of Chattooga. UT students work with him, as have local volunteers, including school teachers hoping to better their abilities to teach children about native Americans. Funding comes from UT and challenge cost share and Passports in Time grants from the Forest Service.

Dr. Schroedl found the site by checking historical records and by listening to abundant local lore. The old town sits in a valley of prime agricultural land, the best for miles around. Forest Service archaeologist Jim Bates said, "I suspect it's been an agricultural field for hundreds of years, perhaps more than a thousand." The ground has yielded artifacts from pre-Cherokee native Americans including the Etowah people of one thousand years ago, and as far back as the Connestee of 200 - 400 A.D., Bates said.

The Cherokee community was a lower town, one of the three branches of their nation. Lower towns were located on the lower Chattooga River as well as the Keowee and Tugaloo rivers of South Carolina; Cherokee land also included middle towns in Western North Carolina and overhill towns in Tennessee. Chattooga was small; a census taken in 1721 counted about 90 people, making Chattooga the fourth smallest in all their nation. It was isolated, neither a economic nor a political center.

But centuries after its occupation from about 1650 through about 1735, Chattooga has risen to prominence. The town is a major archaeological find because of a fire that preserved the floor of Chattooga's last town house, the setting for all major political and cultural events in the town. In addition to the way the building burned, it was spared from plow damage, a common problem at other sites. The site also has been protected from development because it lies within the Chattooga River Wild and Scenic corridor. "The Chattooga site is unique for being the only town house investigated in the lower towns," Schroedl said.

Dr. David Hally, an archaeologist at the University of Georgia, recalled partial excavations of the lower towns of Tugalo and Chauga in the 1950s and 60s (both are now under Lake Hartwell). "There were artifacts but not much in the way of a town house," Hally said. "We know virtually nothing about lower Cherokee towns." At Chattooga, Schroedl has the opportunity to change that.

A man from Schroedl's audience asks a broad question, but one that cuts right to the heart of archaeology: "What was life like for the Cherokee?"

Schroedl describes the town. At any one time there was the town house, an octagonal building, fifty to sixty feet in diameter and up to about twenty feet tall at the center, entirely covered and enclosed, made of a variety of woods including oaks, hickories, and most often, pitch pine. This structure was covered with large poplar bark shingles. At the center of the town house were benches surrounding the hearth, a sacred place for the Cherokee.

"Fire was a portion of the sun as present on earth," Schroedl said in an interview. " So fire in the hearth in the town house was a sacred living thing and was treated with great reverence and great respect." Nearly all cultures have a similar feeling, he said, noting the eternal flame above the grave of John Kennedy. The Cherokee, in a time before electric lights, put fire at the very center of their towns.

Beyond Chattooga's town house was a town plaza, a courtyard covered with gravel. Houses were spaced several hundred feet apart and scattered across the valley. Each family had a pair -- a winter house, similar to the townhouse in design but less than half as large, and a rectangular summer house. "They weren't for indoor living in the sense that we stay indoors," Schroedl said. "The Cherokee stayed outside except in cold, stormy, and wet weather." Between the houses, Cherokee people planted gardens and built storage sheds.

Chattooga was a center for pipe manufacture and distribution. They carved pipes from a common local mineral, chlorite schist, greenish black in color and soft enough to carve easily.

Schroedl also pointed out some of the harsh realities of Cherokee life in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They had neither a written language nor modern medicine. Life expectancy was thirty to forty years.

The people of Chattooga caught fish in the river. They collected hickory nuts, walnuts, acorns, and chestnuts. They grew beans, squash, and , most importantly, corn. The importance of corn to the Cherokee reveals itself in their word for corn, *selu*. Selu is also the name of the first woman in their creation myths -- their Eve. She produced corn from her body while her husband hunted and brought back meat. This myth explains the traditional roles of Cherokee men as hunters and women as farmers.[1] Corn is thus linked to the roots of the Cherokee people, to their birth.

The most important holiday of the Cherokee year celebrated the ripening of corn. The Green Corn Ceremony was the turning point of the year, like our New Year's celebration.[2] "Cherokee life was punctuated by major ceremonies," Schroedl said. They celebrated six during the course of a year, coinciding with the changing of the seasons, planting, and harvesting.

As the crowd listens and imagines the valley three hundred years ago, the sounds of the highway fade. As if

on cue, two white tail deer run across the field. The Cherokee hunted deer as we do today. But they also hunted elk and mountain lions -- animals that may never again run across this valley because they simply are not here any more.

Archaeology can be a useful tool for studying flora and fauna that once lived at a site but have since vanished. When archaeologists dig up animal bones and plant remains, they unearth pages in the history of the ecosystem. Schroedl said that although the Chattooga site has not provided good bone records, at other Cherokee sites archaeologists have found elk and mountain lion bones as well as those of passenger pigeons, a bird now extinct. Some sites have provided bones of extinct fish. "The Cherokee used ginseng, a plant much less abundant today than perhaps it was in Cherokee times," Schroedl said. He further noted their use of the now-blighted chestnut tree.

Hally pointed out that in reconstructing the biological past with archaeological information there is a "cultural filter. You're only getting what people bring back." Pollen producing plants are an exception. Since pollen is carried by the wind and not by people, archaeological remains of pollen never pass through the cultural filter. "This can tell you about plants in the vicinity of an archaeological site," Hally said.

Archaeology can be a useful tool for studying flora and fauna that once lived at a site but have since vanished.

Schroedl said that when looking at an ecosystem's past, it is important to see not only the plants and animals but also the humans and they way they fit in. "Lets say you wanted to understand the Chattooga River environment as it existed a thousand years ago and you left out archaeology -- you would be leaving out a major component to making those assessments because humans have been a part of the environment in North America for at least twelve thousand years, and perhaps even longer. So as soon as humans got here, they began to utilize the plants and animals, and over the course of those twelve thousand years have modified and altered the landscape. Looking at the locations of archaeological sites -- where did people go? -- we can get some notion of what portions of the environment they were utilizing and what impact they may have had on the environment. The environment, even pre-historically, is not free from human impact. If we want to understand that interrelationship, we have very few ways of understanding it other than archaeologically."

Schroedl also speculated on the Cherokee view of their environment. "I doubt very much that the Cherokee people, living here in Chattooga or elsewhere, conceptualized what they were doing to the environment. They were just living day to day." Schroedl pointed to population size and technology level as key differences between the impact the Cherokee made on the environment and the impact of more modern developers. In the early eighteenth century, there were approximately ten to twenty thousand Cherokee in the Southern Appalachians compared with our current millions.

"Their technology wasn't so great that they impacted things to the extent that the environment couldn't come back," Schroedl said. "But if they had had more modern technology, they would have impacted the environment more. When they got guns from the British, the Cherokee and other Indians started killing deer as fast as they could, and in many areas deer populations dwindled essentially to the point where it was not very economical to hunt deer any longer. We have the ability today to affect the environment on a massive and global scale. The Cherokee and other native people could have done that too, it just would have taken them probably several thousand years longer."

The historical end of the town of Chattooga, when travelers no longer noted the town in their journals, comes around 1735. This matches the evidence Schroedl has unearthed. Disease is a likely candidate for Chattooga's demise. Disease has a nightmarish history in North America. It arrived with the Spanish in the sixteenth century. Small pox and other diseases to which Native Americans had no resistance killed fifty to ninety per cent of the their populations, breaking up large chiefdoms into the seventeenth and eighteenth century historical tribes such as the Creeks and Cherokee. Disease may have come back to haunt the people of Chattooga. Schroedl pointed out that because of its size, Chattooga would have been particularly susceptible. If any significant part of its hundred residents died, the remaining number would not have been enough to sustain the town.

Access to British trade goods might also have caused them to abandon their isolated valley. "The British coming changed their worldview. They quite clearly understood that their survival had become inextricably intertwined with the survival of the British," Schroedl said.

Chattooga will be remembered with some form of public interpretation developed by the Forest Service. Forest Service archaeologist Jim Bates said an interpretive sign might be placed on or near the site. Bates was tentative, however, because he is wary of pointing vandals toward the old town. The Stump House Ranger Station in Mountain Rest, SC, may display photos and artifacts from the site.

1. Greene, Joan and H.F. Robinson. "Maize Was Our Life: A History of the Cherokee Corn." Journal of Cherokee Studies. Spring 1986. 40-41.
2. Wetmore, Ruth Y. "The Green Corn Ceremony of the Eastern Cherokees." Journal of Cherokee Studies. Spring 1983. 53-54.

Former President Jimmy Carter Gets Involved !

Monitoring

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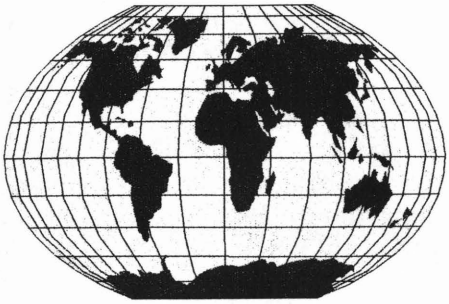
sensitive stream side areas, while other stands directly border the slender Wild and Scenic river corridor.

While Forest Service districts in the North Carolina and South Carolina portions of the watershed have been somewhat responsive to the demands of a burgeoning conservation-minded citizenry, the above statistics show that short-term timber extraction is the primary objective on the Tallulah district.

Thus after careful consideration, nearly all the Tallulah projects were appealed by various individuals and groups. Coalition members felt strongly that the cumulative impacts from all this tree cutting and road building would significantly affect sensitive species and further inflict the the river ecosystem's already declining health. The noticeable absence of site-specific cumulative effects analyses (required by law) in the Forest Service paperwork verified this opinion, as did consultations with qualified experts and scientists.

Meanwhile, the Chattooga River Ecosystem Management Demonstration Project has entered its second year with tax-payer funding totaling about one million dollars thus far. The Forest Service bills this project as a showcase display of research and management techniques, designed to maintain and enhance the ecosystem of the Chattooga River. This sounds great; unfortunately, the Chattooga "Demonstration Project's" credibility and the wise expenditure of tax-payer's monies is very much in jeopardy, due to the damaging on-the-ground actions proposed by the Tallulah District. Further, the "Demonstration Project" has endorsed a timber cutting plan that would produce 100 acres of clearcut forest land! (continued page 8)



Jimmy Carter
February 15, 1994

To Jack Ward Thomas

. . . To showcase its newly adopted land ethic, the Forest Service's Chattooga River Project is critical in its importance in defining ecosystems management in the eastern United States. The knowledge gained in the Chattooga will greatly affect the implementation of ecosystem management in other parts of the country as well as influence forestry in other countries looking to the U.S. Forest Service for guidance and leadership.

It is my understanding that the Forest Service will be increasing its public outreach on the project and will be asking for substantial local community involvement. I strongly support a project that embodies a true spirit of public cooperation. I also commend the Forest Service in its willingness to bring the best science to bear on the project, and recommend the attached list of scientists for the proposed biodiversity consulting team. Their findings can be very helpful in drafting or updating forest plans throughout the Southern Appalachian Region.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter

cc: Vice President Al Gore
Chattooga River Watershed Coalition

In the Fall of 1993 President Carter penned a letter to the Chief of the Forest Service endorsing a list of scientists, submitted by the CRWC to ensure credible science in the process of developing the ecosystem management initiative in the Chattooga watershed.

Big Picture

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clearing for pasture, agriculture, and new homes, as well as looking at conversions of forest type, changes in road mileage and densities, the degree of fragmentation due to all of the above, and the ways tributaries within the watershed have been affected.

Planning Studies graduate student Brad Digre is doing much of the work as research towards his Masters thesis. The project is also benefiting from the work of another graduate student, Aysin Dedekorkut, who is using information from aerial photographs and US Geological Survey topo maps to try to determine if man-made dwellings and other objects can be reliably identified in the satellite images. Additional help has come from several USFS people involved in the Chattooga Ecosystem Management Demonstration Project. The USFS has pledged to contribute a recent (Spring 1994) satellite image to the project which will be used for later studies.

This project was made possible by generous funding from the Turner Foundation and the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation. The project is now underway and will be completed by summer's end, so stay tuned for the results. We hope to use this as a positive contribution to the Chattooga River Ecosystem Management Demonstration Project and to set the pace for our future activities in the watershed.

Rabun Bald, continued from page 1

This tactic allowed them to test the resolve of the citizens group, but ultimately back off at the last moment without admitting guilt.

This court action required the Forest Service to formulate new Environmental Assesments (EA). The conclusions in these new EA's were similar to the findings of the original EA's, but with a few subtle changes.

In some cases the method of harvest was switched from clearcutting to seedtree or shelterwood cutting. Some stands scheduled to be cut were eliminated, and the total amount of new road building was reduced. However, the Forest Service failed to consider that clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts are all even-aged management techniques, which result in a loss of critical native habitat required by species whose numbers are in serious decline!

In addition, as with the first EAs, the assessments did not address the cumulative effects of these cuts and new roads. The fact that all the timber sales would be taking place in the Chattooga watershed *at the same time* was not even mentioned. Also, the Forest Service did not specifically consider the combined effects of timber sales in the recent past or near future with the present ones (as required by law).

Finally, in the case of compartment 32, the new EA failed to mention a critical factor, the fact that compartment 32 lay within an inventoried Roadless Area.

Environmental groups noted the failure of the Forest Service to address critical issues essential to protect biological diversity. Overall, a total of nine timber sales in the watershed were appealed by individuals and citizen's groups in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Then unexpectedly, the Forest Service withdrew the decision for Compartment 32 and issued a revised EA in May 1994. The new assessment attempted to address the possible effects of the timber sale on the roadless character of the area. The Forest Supervisor insisted that there would be "no significant impact" on the area and reissued the decision to harvest timber. He also stated that the decision was not appealable by the public.

> "Roadless areas exemplify the least human disturbed forest and stream systems, the last reservoirs of ecological diversity, and the primary benchmark for restoring ecological health and integrity".
>
> - letter from Representative John Porter (R-IL)

The CRWC consulted the Southern Environmental Law Center to determine the legality of this decision. We found that the Forest Supervisor's decision was in violation of two legal requirements. First, the revised EA was based on new information which had not been made available to the public. This violates NEPA, which states that "... procedures must ensure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before actions are taken." Secondly, the law requires that federal agencies prepare "... a detailed statement outlining environmental impacts of major actions that would have significant impacts on the environment." A review of case law revealed that courts have consistently ruled that timber harvesting and road building in previously inventoried roadless areas constitutes a "major " action.

The Chattooga River Watershed Coalition began spearheading an effort to force the Forest Service to obey the law. Adding to the importance of this action were two additional recent proposals for timber harvesting and road building in the Rabun Bald Roadless Area in the Walnut Fork and Tuckaluge Creek drainages.

The Coalition issued an action alert, stating that the Forest Service had once again failed to inform the public that these sales were in an inventoried roadless area. The alert produced an immediate outcry from the public. Many citizens wrote letters demanding that the Forest Service conduct a proper analysis of the consequences of their proposed activities, actions destined to affect the roadless characteristics of these areas.

At this time the Coalition began organizing citizens to document previous Forest Service activities in the roadless area, such as past clearcuts, fragmentation caused by wildlife openings, and road building. The RCCSF simultaneously began circulating a petition in the Warwoman community which produced 64 signatures.

Meanwhile the CRWC continued work with the Southern Environmental Law Center, and the Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest and the South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association, to gather affidavits from expert scientists, in order to draft a complaint against the Forest Service. The complaint outlined the violations of NEPA and Forest Service appeals regulations, and pointed out that the law requires an Environmental Impact Statement for major activities in roadless areas.

As a result of these efforts, on August 24 the Forest Service withdrew the compartment 32 sale and granted an appeals period. Now that we have forced the Forest Service to grant an appeals period and the public has been made aware of the facts, we can build a record that citizens demand proper evaluations of these roadless areas.

Despite this encouraging victory, many other destructive

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William Bartram and the Fraser Magnolia

Today, as we walk along the banks of the Chattooga or paddle down its rapids, we see lush floral beauty and what appears to be healthy forests. Only through the careful study of history, however, can we ascertain what the original ecosystem was like.

One of the most noted of the early explorers of the Southern Appalachians was William Bartram. Bartram was an early American naturalist who came to the botanically rich temperate forest of the Blue Ridge Mountains where he, as he put it, "hoped that his labours will present new as well as useful information to botanists and zoologists." The result was a volume entitled Travels of William Bartram, published in Philadelphia in 1791. The following passage from Bartram's book reveals the keen sense of observation and appreciation for nature which makes this work such a valuable resource for defining the native ecosystem. Here he describes a new species which he had just discovered in the Chattooga watershed.

"Crossed a delightful river , the main branch of the Tugilo, when I began to ascend again , first over swelling turfy ridges, varied with groves of stately forest trees; then ascending again more steep grassy hillsides, rested on the top of mount Magnolia [Pinnacle Mountain, GA], which appeared to me to be the highest ridge of the Cherokee Mountains, which seperates the waters of the Savanna river from those of the Tanase or greater main branch of the Cherokee River.

... This exalted peak I named mount Magnolia, from a new and beautiful species of that celebrated family of fowering trees, which here at the cascades of Falling Creek, grows in a high degree of perfection.

... This tree or perhaps rather shrub, rises eighteen to thirty feet in height; there are usually many stems from a root or source, which lean a little, or slightly diverge from each other, in this respect imitating Magnolia tripetala; the crooked wreathing branches arising and subdividing from the main stem without order or uniformity, their extremities turn upwards, producing a very large rosaceous, perfectly white, double or polypetalous flower, which is of a most fragrant scent; this fine flower sits in the center of a radius of very large leaves,... an expansive umbrella superbly crowned or crested with the fragrant flower, representing a white plum; the blossom is succeeded by a very large crimson cone or strobile, containing a great number of scarlett berries, which, when ripe, spring from their cells, and are for a time suspended by a white silky web or thread."

The timber harvests being contested in the Rabun Bald Roadless Area (see article page 1) are located just next to the historic place described above where Bartram found the Fraser Magnolia.

Studying Bartram and other early travelers through the Chattooga watershed will shed immeasurable light on the character of the native ecosystem. The literary experience is a bonus.

Magnolia fraseri

Know the Facts

from studies reported in The Living Landscape volumes 4 and 5, published by the Wilderness Society

- Federal lands constitute a relatively consolidated ownership block spanning the length of the region, and provide the best opportunity to conserve a functional regional ecosystem; properly managed, the Southern Appalachians' national forests and parks are well suited to conserving the bulk of biodiversity in the region.

- Despite occupying 16% of the region's land base, federal lands support 55% of the region's older forest.

- Of the almost 3,000 plant and animal species considered in the report, more than 80% are found to some extent on the region's public lands.

-In the largest portion of the federal land base in the Southern Appalachians, the National Forest, clearcutting and road construction threaten the best of what remains of the region's biodiversity.

-The remaining large blocks of complex, mature interior forest are the most immediately threatened element of biodiversity; all four levels of biodiversity face threats posed by the destruction and fragmentation of this interior forest.

- Biological and recreational resources on the Southern Appalachian national forests provide substantial public benefits and are in great demand, whereas timber on the forests is in low demand, with measurable declining values.

- Employment and income in service industries in the Southern Appalachians are outpacing those in the resource extraction industries: since

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Join the CRWC Monitoring Team

The CRWC needs volunteers! If you have a skill and want to get involved, we will find a way to make sure there is a place for you to help. We need writers, photographers, people with orienteering skills, artists, organizers, typists, and computer people just to name a few.

We will also offer workshops for people to become proficient at identifying old growth habitat, other critical habitats, and threatened, endangered or sensitive species of plants and animals.

Our goal is to build an army of conservationists who want to get directly involved in forest monitoring. We feel that the best way to do this is to get to know the ecosystems. If you live in the area or if you are occasionally up in the watershed paddling or hiking or such, give us a call and we will offer you a way to help. We hope we can learn together and have fun too.

Rabun Bald, continued from page 6

activities proposed by the Forest Service in other areas of the forest will proceed as planned unless the public demands accountability. Please get involved by writing the Forest Service and your local Congressman demanding that the agency comply with the laws requiring that they protect the integrity of our native ecosystems, and that the Forest Service include you in their scoping process.

Calendar of Events

Workshops

September 24th
"Identifying Old Growth"
with Dr. Bob Zahner, and Norma Ivy of the Western North Carolina Alliance. Lecture and field trip. Bring rain gear and a sack lunch.

October 1st
"Salamanders and Ecosystem Health"
presented by Mark Hopey who worked with Dr. James Petranka on the pivotal role of salamanders in Southern Appalachian ecosystems. Slide show, talk and field trip.

October 15th
"Plants and Habitats"
with Marie Mellinger on an exploration of Warwoman Dell.

All workshops begin at 10:00 am and will meet at the CRWC office on Savannah Street in Clayton, GA.

Facts, continued from page 7

1969, services added more than 8.5 jobs for every one job added by resource extraction industries in the region.

- The number of timber program jobs (1,773) in the Southern Appalachians national forests represents less than two percent of timber industry employment in the study area, less than 1/10 of one percent of total employment in the study area, and only 1/100 of one percent of total employment in the five-state region.

- The number of jobs associated with recreation on the region's national forests (9,000) was more than five times the number of jobs associated with timber cutting on the national forests between 1987 and 1991.

- Logging on Southern Appalachian national forests accounts for less than one percent of the total cut in the five-state region.

- The gross economic benefits of the recreational opportunities on the Southern Appalachian national forests equal $379 million annually, more than ten times the $32 million in gross annual benefits attributable to the timber program.

- U.S. Forest Service budgets continue to emphasize timber production over non-timber resources and are dominated by timber sales and road construction activities.

Monitoring, continued from page 5

Coalition members have also identified problems concerning the information being generated by the expensive ecosystem management project. For example, the study of sediment sources was conducted during a year of severe drought (1993) which minimized soil movement, and important research contracts were awarded to individuals with known ties to the timber industry. The glowing rhetoric of the demonstration project remains dimmed by what is truly happening.

At this writing, the CRWC continues to urge the Forest Service to tell the whole truth, obey the laws and to implement real ecosystem management. We represent more than 100,000 citizens expressing their concerns regarding the management of this unique resource. Yet disappointingly, the Forest Service remains mostly unresponsive. Our appeals to the Forest Service have been denied, plans and activities for intensive timber extraction continue, and the concerns of the public remain ignored.

Quotes

Old and New

"In 1987, I revisited the Chattooga 17 years after I wrote the novel Deliverance. I had been concerned that over-commercialization and over-use had degraded the 'wildness' of the river. And though I found the river changed, the spirit of wilderness still survives. Recently I learned about the CRWC which promotes respect for the natural integrity of the watershed. Finding a way to protect and restore places like the Chattooga is becoming increasingly important. I support the Coalition and wish them success."

James Dickey

"It is the calling of great men, not so much to preach new truths, as to rescue from oblivion those old truths which it is our wisdom to remember and our weakness to forget".
- Sidney Smith

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect".
- Aldo Leopold

"Humanity's activities are damaging the Earth's ability to sustain life in ways we have only just begun to understand".
- Jack Heinz
U.S. Senator

"Anyone can identify destructive forest practices. You don't have to be a professional forester to recognize bad forestry anymore than you need to be a doctor to recognize ill health. If logging looks bad, it is bad. If a forest appears to be mismanaged, it is mismanaged. But a certain level of expertise is needed if you are going to do something about it".
- Gordon Robinson

"I am utterly convinced that most of the great environmental struggles will be either won or lost in the 1990's, and that by the next century it will be too late to act... The problem is clearly very big and the fuse very short".
- Thomas E. Lovejoy,
assistant secretary of the
Smithsonian Institution

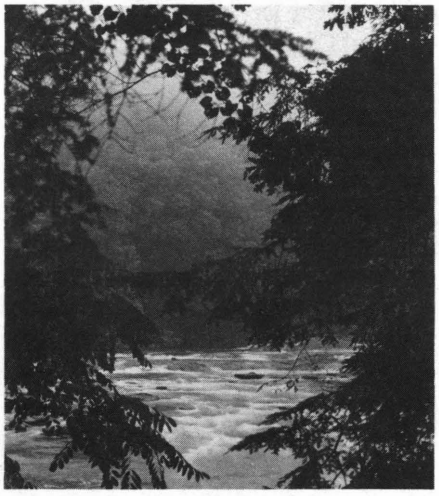


photo by Paul E. Cliff

"We have to drop our standard of living, so that people a thousand years from now can have a standard of living at all".
- David Brower

"The days have ended when forests may be viewed only as trees and the trees only as timber".
- Hubert Humphrey

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land".
- Aldo Leopold

"Forestry is the preservation of forest by wise use... forestry means making the forest useful not only to the settler, the rancher, the miner, the man who lives in the neighborhood, but indirectly to the man who lives hundreds of miles off down the course of some great river which has had its rise among the forest bearing mountains".
- Theodore Roosevelt

"The rivers are our brothers, they quench our thirst. The rivers carry our canoes, and feed our children. If we sell you our land, you must remember, and teach your children, that the rivers are our brothers, and yours, and you must henceforth give the rivers the kindness you would give any brother".
- Chief Seattle

"... the greatest beauty is organic wholeness, the wholeness of life and things, the divine beauty of the universe. Love that, not men apart from that..."
- Robinson Jeffers

"Who so walketh in solitude,
And inhabiteth the wood,
Choosing light, wave, rock and bird,
Before the money loving herd,
Into that forester shall pass,
From these companions,
Power and grace".
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The way we are acting, the Lord is liable to turn on us any minute; and even if he don't, our good fortune can't possibly last any longer than our natural resources".
- Will Rogers

The Other River

by Marie Mellinger

There are many facets to the Chattooga River. There is the River that has acclaimed national status as Wild and Scenic. There is the river of Deliverance. There is the Chattooga of excited whitewater enthusiasts, shrieking as they race its rapids, finding fast paced thrills. There is the Chattooga of the environmentalists, those of us who wish to preserve its biodiversity, and protect its ecological habitats and its rare and endangered species.

But there is the Chattooga that begins in crevices as springs rising from mossy rocks. This is the Chattooga of the salamander and the slowly crawling turtle. The Chattooga of the wild and free-wheeling golden eagle, the river that listens to the song of the red-start. The Chattooga where swallow-tailed butterflies hover over joe pye weed and buttonbush.

To enjoy this, sit quietly on a rock and let the spirit of the river fill your senses and bring peace to your soul. Sit quietly and listen to the song of the river itself:

Mine is the voice of the wailing wind,
My sigh is the softness of greening fern,
My waters glow with reflected light,
As firey colors of autumn burn.

Forever I live in a granite crag,
Or dance in a brief-lived mayfly hour,
My thunder and lightning can threaten the stars,
My touch can caress a fragile flower.

I live in each trembling fungus face,
That springs new-born from the forest sod,
I rage like a demon in water's white,
Or softly whisper a prayer to God.

Tree keeps growing and growing and growing

by Dawn Peebles

This article reprinted with permission from page 7A of the Friday, July 16, 1993 edition of The Highlander, Highlands NC

Did you know that the world's fourth largest poplar is located just three miles from Highlands, NC? There is still a chance for the tree to become the nation's largest poplar because the fantastic monster is still growing. This Horse Cove attraction is admired by tree lovers everywhere.

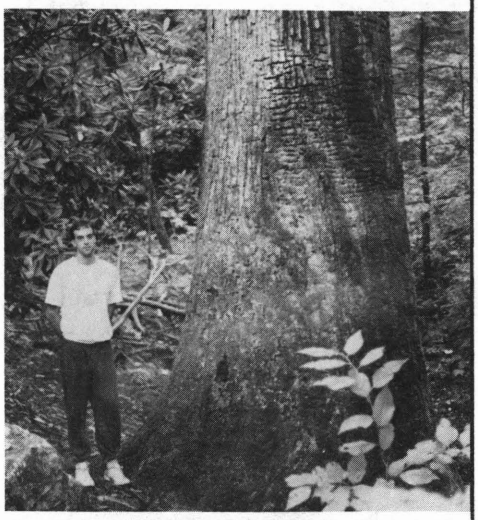
The poplar measures a remarkable 145 feet tall and 19 feet in circumference (circumferences are always measured 4.5 feet from the ground). The largest poplar, or National Champion, is located in Bedford, Va., with a circumference of 32 feet and a height of 146 feet. The scientific name of the tree is *Lirodendron tulipifera*. The Lirodendron is commonly referred to as a "yellow poplar" or "tulip tree."

This species exists in only two areas of the world. In Eastern North America, the yellow poplar has been found from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. The only other place it is known to exist is in China.

"In 1966, Turley Picklesimer approached me and offerred me $1,000 for the poplar," said Bob Padgett, a former National Forest ranger. Padgett's reply to Picklesimer was, "If I sold that poplar and you cut it, the local people would rise up in anger and run us both out of the Highlands area."

Bob Padgett, a Highlands native, has researched the tree and is familiar with its history. In 1982 he wrote an article on the importance of the Horse Cove Poplar which was published in *The State*.

Padgett is also the author of the book Paper Mansions, an autobiography describing growing up in the mountains, and now lives within walking distance of the 300- to 500-year-old poplar.



Horse Cove Poplar

A log bench, nearly 30 years old, allows visitors to admire the overwhelming majesty of the tree. Anyone who has ever glanced at the poplar realizes the sentimental importance of leaving it standing, despite the fact that it contains some 6,000 board feet of veneer logs which sawmills everywhere hunger for.

The poplar is located on the Wilson Gap Road 150 feet from its intersection with the Horse Cove Road and about four miles from Main Street. It can be seen from the Wilson Gap Road and may be reached by a trail leading 100 feet into the forest. A true "champion" tree is the very largest of its kind.

One of Highlands' main natural attractions is the trees. Countless species survive in Highlands and provide a meditative beauty which adds to Highlands' magnificent forests.

Last year Bob Padgett passed away unexpectedly. He was a great friend and a fearless defender of native ecosystems in the Chattooga River watershed, and we miss him immensely. Our old growth workshop on September 24th is dedicated to him.

- CRWC members and staff

Chattooga River Watershed Coalition
Member Organizations

Georgia Forest Watch
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Phone Number: (706) 746-5799

Wilderness Society,
Southeastern Region
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Association of Forest Service Employees
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Friends of the Mountains
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Sierra Club Atlanta Group
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Sierra Club, Georgia Chapter
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Atlanta, Georgia 30319
Phone Number: (404) 347-3866 (work)
or (404) 458-3389 (home)

Sierra Club, North Carolina Chapter
Contact: Bill Thomas
PO Box 272, Cedar Mountain,
North Carolina 28718

Endorsing Organizations

Foothills Canoe Club
Atlanta Whitewater Club
Georgia Canoeing Association
Higgins Hardwood Gear
Turpin's Custom Sawmill
A.F. Clewell, Inc.
Atlanta Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
Georgia Botanical Society

Georgia Ornithological Society
The Beamery
Columbia Audubon Society
The Georgia Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy of Georgia
Southern Environmental Law Center
Environmental Organization, Inc.
Timber Framers Guild of North America
Carolina Bird Club

Membership

Join the Coalition and help protect the Chattooga Watershed!
Your contribution is greatly appreciated. It will be used to support the Coalition's work and guarantee you delivery of our quarterly newsletter.

Name_____
Address_____
_____
_____
_____

Send to:
Chattooga River Watershed Coalition
P.O. Box 2006
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Individual: $7.oo ☐ Group: $14.oo ☐ Sustaining: $45.oo ☐ Donation: ☐

Thank You!

Chattooga River Watershed Coalition

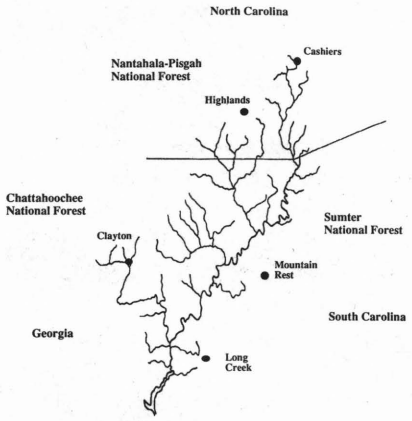
PO Box 2006
Clayton GA 30525
(706) 782-6097

Our Purpose:

"To protect, promote and restore the natural ecological integrity of the Chattooga River watershed ecosystem; to ensure the viability of native species in harmony with the need for a healthy human environment; and to educate and empower communities to practice good stewardship on public and private lands."

Our Work Made Possible By:

The Grassroots
Turner Foundation, Inc.
Mary Renolds Babcock Foundation
The Moriah Fund
Merck Family Fund
Frances Close Hart



Our Goals:

Monitor the U.S. Forest Service's management of public forest lands in the watershed

Educate the public

Promote public choice based on credible scientific information

Promote public land acquisition by the Forest Service within the watershed

Protect remaining old growth and roadless areas

Work cooperatively with the Forest Service to develop a sound ecosystem initiative for the watershed

South Carolina Forest Watch
PO Box 657
Westminster, SC 29693

Non-Profit Organization
Permit # 10
Westminster, SC