



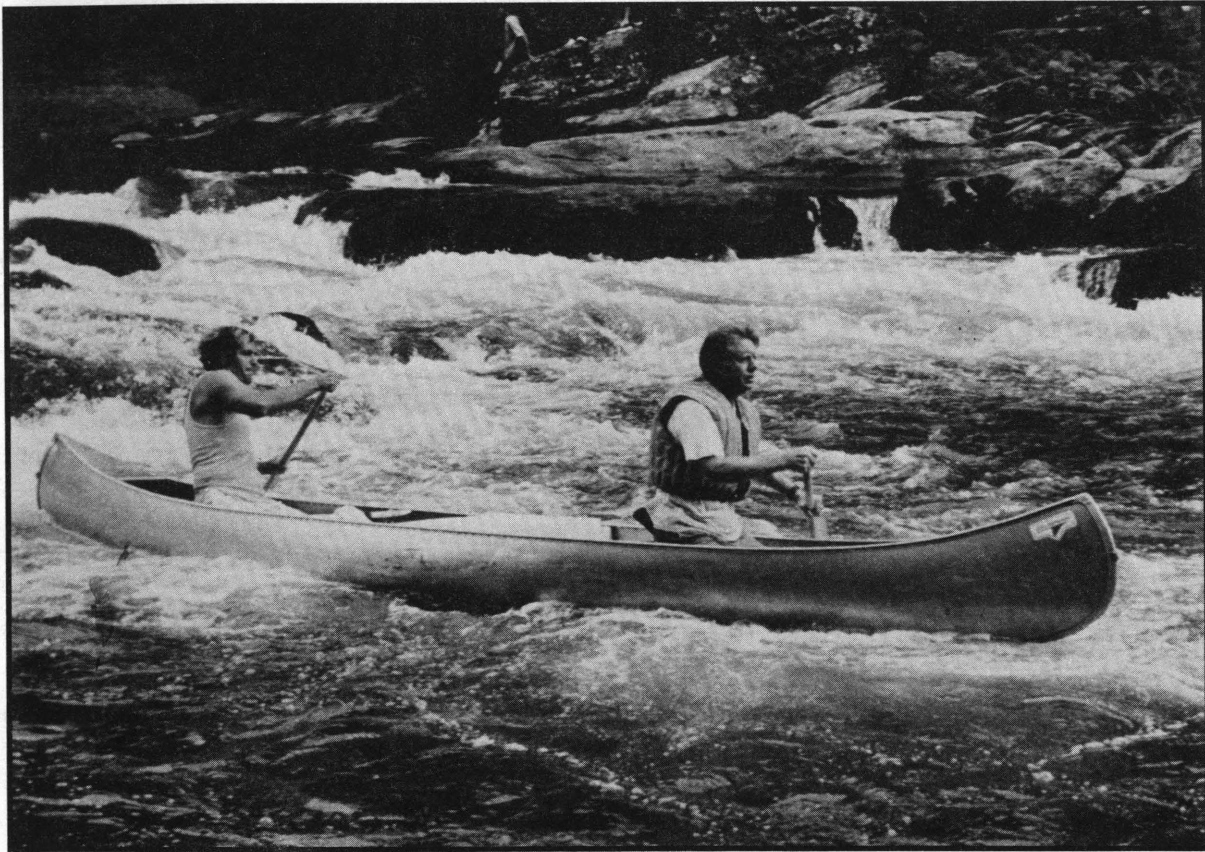
# The Chattooga Quarterly

Spring ◆◆◆ 1995

\$ 1.00

## Recreation

Who Wins, Who Loses, Who Pays?



*Governor Jimmy Carter and Claude Terry running "Keyhole" on the Chattooga in the days of Grumman canoes and optional PFD's - August, 1972 photo by Doug Woodward*

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# Director's Page

## Buzz Williams, CRWC Executive Director

Yes, it is true. The newly elected Congress sent to Washington with the help of powerful special interests is well on the way to dismantling many of the laws that were written to protect our environment. I must admit that like many of you, I have found it demoralizing. Lately though, it has begun to dawn on me that there may be some wild card opportunities in this new deal.

Those who once were hesitant or unwilling to offer support for efforts to reform forest management in the Chattooga watershed now may find reasons to become aligned with this goal. Proposed budget cuts threaten many programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, US Forest Service ecosystem management projects, as well as funding for biological research. All of these programs are critical for habitat conservation plans, which are necessary for the Land and Resource Management Plan revisions pending for the three national forests in the Chattooga watershed. In addition, Congress is likely to reinstate and increase timber targets for public lands, which will once again place pressure on the Forest Service to blindly cut timber. Congressional pressure could make it impossible to continue the processes of reform which have begun to take hold in the agency under the guidance of more progressive leaders appointed by the Clinton administration. But now, a new political landscape has brought together circumstances which make it mutually advantageous for the Chattooga River Watershed Coalition (CRWC), the Forest Service, the outfitting and guiding businesses, and research communities to work together to find common ground in joint projects that would involve educating the public about the values of protecting the native ecosystems.

For as long as I can remember, leaders in the outfitting and guiding industry who operate concessions on the Chattooga River (with a few exceptions) have been reluctant to join the conservation community in taking on tough issues like timber management reform. One would expect them to be the first in line to fight practices which adversely effect water quality and biological integrity. Why haven't they been more vocal on these issues? The answer is simple: the Forest Service is the agency that decides who is licensed to run commercial whitewater operations on the Chattooga. Also, because the outfitters are constantly under siege by those who view their

operations as an unfair monopoly, they tend to steer clear of controversies which involve opposing the Forest Service.

Traditionally, the Forest Service has been the target of conservation groups who disagree with the timber management practices used by the agency on public lands, such as clearcutting and other forms of even-age management. However, for the last few years the Forest Service has begun to move steadily towards more natural harvest systems, which are favored by the conservation

community. This trend seems to be trickling down from new Forest Service leaders at the Washington and regional levels. While it is true that we still have significant differences at the local Forest and District levels where a few hard-liners are "dug in", now we are much closer to conflict resolution of some issues than ever before. This improved working relationship with the Forest Service, juxtaposed with a new congress whose agenda has shifted strongly towards



exploitation of public lands, places the conservation community and the outfitters and the Forest Service in an arena where there is a mutual need for cooperation.

There are others who could benefit from alliances nurtured by the new political climate. Those in the academic community tell us that the fields of ecology and biological sciences are flooded with young, bright graduate students. But many graduate-level programs are also strapped for funding. An initiative to incorporate these eager students could salvage and continue the work begun by programs such as the Forest Service's "Chattooga River Basin Ecosystem Management Demonstration Project"

We propose this: the outfitting and guiding businesses would earmark a portion of their receipts to fund research and education. Research opportunities would be primarily for graduate students to study key species and their critical habitats in the watershed. The funds would be donated to a local non-profit group who would be the fiscal agent for administering the program. A steering committee composed of representatives from the outfitters, the research community and the conservation community would design the program. The outfitting and guiding businesses could benefit from a tax deduction for monetary donations. The program would fund research projects in the Chattooga Basin, while utilizing the

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# Recreation For Who?

**Buzz Williams**

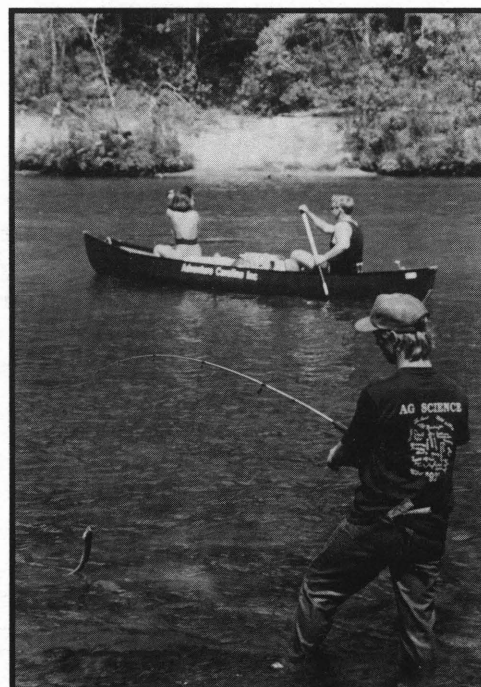
Prior to the late 60's, recreation in the Chattooga watershed was primarily local and non-commercial. Today, it is a National Wild and Scenic River supporting a thriving commercial recreation and service related community. In 1968, when the Chattooga was nominated as a study river in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it was a relatively isolated and inaccessible mountain river. Today, it is regarded with an almost mythical status by a steadily growing number of recreation enthusiasts whose pilgrimages to its shores begin mostly in the southeast, but also originate from national and international locations. The transformation hasn't been easy, nor do the waters look calm ahead.

To understand the enormous changes that have occurred in the Chattooga basin, one must investigate the socio-economic and ecological history of the area. The Chattooga experienced extensive exploitation after the turn of the century ( see *The Chattooga Quarterly*, "Logging the Watershed", Winter, 1995). When the depression hit the Blue Ridge Mountains, local residents found themselves facing a hard life on a landscape which had been heavily farmed and timbered. The soil was worn out and the land was badly eroding. Many local folks were forced into surrounding towns to work in the textile industry, which still managed to employ a large number of people. The ones who stayed were of tough, Scotch-Irish and German stock. These hardy residents of the Chattooga watershed epitomized the idea that "mountain people can survive".

As the forest began to recover, so did the habitat for species that had been extirpated, such as deer and

turkey. State and Federal programs were implemented to reintroduce these animals, and they thrived in the recovering landscape. The lush, native vegetation which began to return filtered the silt from the water, and the Chattooga River once again ran

clear. Ironically, the hard times that drove the people away facilitated the processes of natural recovery which would soon draw the people back, and create new problems for the watershed. Meanwhile, many local residents who scratched out a living during these times in relative isolation had grown to love the land where they fished, hunted and recreated.



*Conflicts can often occur between traditional uses and white water boaters*



*Rental equipment has the potential of becoming the largest contributor to increased use on the Chattooga*

The natural beauty of the Chattooga River watershed could not remain a secret for long. Nomination for Wild and Scenic status was the first harbinger of real change. But this was not the only event which precipitated a virtual flood of tourists in the early 1970's. The filming of the movie *Deliverance* on the Chattooga was arguably the largest factor in catapulting the river into the national spotlight. This best selling novel by James Dickey, written about three urban adventurers who ran into trouble on a weekend canoeing trip, did more than launch the career of Burt Reynolds. *Deliverance* exposed the remote Appalachian river to the nation, and kicked off the exodus of thousands to its shores to find deliverance by way of recreation. What they found was to become known as "the deliverance syndrome".

# Recreation continued...

Between 1970 and 1974, thirteen people died on the Chattooga River, according to Forest Service statistics. The sport of whitewater paddling had not been around long enough for people to develop the skills necessary to navigate the technical and dangerous rapids of the river. It would be years before knowledge of technique and proper equipment for safe participation in the sport caught up with the demand for whitewater recreation.

In 1972, commercial outfitters became established on the Chattooga. This provided a safe way for people to enjoy the river. In 1974 the Chattooga was formally designated the first Wild and Scenic River in the southeast, and the U.S. Forest Service was charged to manage the use and development of the river in a way that would be consistent with the Act. The Forest Service implemented safety regulations which also stemmed the death toll. Today, the average is about one death per year.

The Wild and Scenic River Development Plan was written for the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River corridor in 1975, and outlined management directives. The plan called for management guidelines that focused on whitewater recreation. Further, it targeted a specific user group which sought a place with an element of "solitude", "challenge", "risk", and "adventure", and required a "maximum degree of outdoor skills". This focus can be linked to a philosophy first expressed by Bob Marshall, a Forest Service employee who was the first to devise

right under our system of government to have a portion of public land set aside for them to exercise their right to pursue happiness. The Chattooga met the criteria to be designated as such a place.



*There is increasing demand for more mountain bike trails in the watershed*

About 70% of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River corridor is designated in the "wild" category, as defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Wild areas often function as wilderness, and are therefore managed as defacto wilderness.

In 1976, a new law called the National Forest Management Act required the Forest Service to include the public in formulating management plans for the national forests. In these Forest Plans, management area designations for the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River corridor included direction that recreation opportunities (in the wild areas) would be designed for a "semi-primitive, non-motorized" experience. The concept of the "right of the minority" is clearly exemplified in the directives written into the management plan for the Chattooga River, which singles out those who desire a "primitive" experience as the primary user group. The plan required that management should aim to provide this experience in a setting essentially "unaltered by man". It was determined in the Sumter Land and Resource Management Plan (SC) that the Chattooga was the only river in a 250 mile radius which could provide this type of experience. The decision "to feature challenging, semi-primitive experiences in the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor" was made from a national perspective. The traditional and local forms of recreation would never be the same. For local folks, the recreation



*The U.S. Forest Service is likely to implement user fees due to shrinking federal budgets*

regulations for wilderness management in the 1920's. Marshall believed that different people require different types of activities in the "pursuit of happiness", as defined by the Constitution of the United States. Marshall stated in his early writings that a certain number of people inevitably require a wilderness experience to be fulfilled, and though they may be in the "minority", they retain the

*continued on page 13...*



# Update: The Forest Service's Chattooga River Ecosystem Management Project

Nicole Hayler

The US Forest Service's "Chattooga River Basin Ecosystem Management Demonstration Project" ends its third and final year this fall. One and a half million dollars of tax-payer's monies will have been spent on the Chattooga Project's studies, research, and activities. The largest expenditures of funding (other than the cumulative salaries of Forest Service personnel) have been for computer work and associated technical products. These products, such as Geographic Information Systems data bases for the three national forests of the watershed, and a model to predict plant associations and "potential natural vegetation", are intended to provide information and state-of-the-art analysis tools for the national forest land managers in the watershed. This investment has been calculated to support the primary goals of the Chattooga Project. These goals are: "to develop an integrated and ecological approach to managing the Chattooga watershed", and to promote "the conservation of biodiversity within the watershed through sustainable resource management." However, land and resource management decisions will still be made separately and autonomously at the individual district level. Forest Service projects may abide by the Chattooga Project's goals, or they may run counter to the objectives of the larger ecosystem management project.

For example, most of the Chattooga watershed in Georgia (approximately 60% of the entire Chattooga drainage) is presently slated for intensive timber management activities, which entail the extraction of a high volume of wood. In Georgia's Tallulah Ranger District, many ongoing timber harvests and new system roads construction projects were opposed and appealed by citizen's groups and individuals, due to the nature and intensity of the actions. Those in opposition to these timber sales believe that they will have irrevocable negative impacts to the unique values of the watershed area, especially in terms of their cumulative effects on recreation and wildlife opportunities, water quality, and certain forest interior species of plants and animals. One sale (soon to be implemented) will have a logging road built directly across the scenic Bartram

Trail, in order to harvest trees along the trail, and also a stand of trees which are directly adjacent to the Wild and Scenic river corridor. Another project will log and build roads in the relatively pristine headwaters of the Chattooga around Big Creek, in and among the numerous perennial and intermittent springs and streams in that area. Another recent proposal aims to allow herbicide (brand name: "Arsenal") applications to kill certain species of trees in the watershed.

Meanwhile, many products from the Forest Service's Chattooga Project are available for public review. One recent publication, a study of sediment sources in the watershed, received front page billing in the local *Greenville News* (SC). The study confirms that the aquatic health of the river is being significantly jeopardized by the large amount of sediment that is accumulating in the river bed, due mainly to dirt and gravel roads. Another recently

The Tallulah Ranger District (GA) has recently released an Environmental Assessment for a "crop tree release" on 606 acres of national forest lands in the district. The proposed action would include herbicide applications on 275 acres using Arsenal as a foliar spray for a period of up to five years. These actions would be in addition to a similar project implemented in 1994 that also applied herbicides to hundreds of acres. The purpose of this activity is to kill all vegetation that competes with trees of high commercial value such as pines, oaks and hickories. The project would continue the broadcasting of poisons onto our public lands, while destroying the natural biological diversity represented by the native vegetation. The "Crop Tree Release" proposal is the on-the-ground implementation of an outdated Forest Service concept that public lands in the Southern Appalachians should be managed as tree farms. Comments on this Environmental Assessment are due by May 30, 1995.



completed project concentrated on finding areas of old growth trees. Ongoing investigations include research on: fresh water mussels, spray zone vegetation, soils, small mammals, human disturbances, and natural disturbance regimes. But some important research needs and opportunities will not be pursued, like studying populations and habitat availability for certain large mammals such as the Black Bear. Another prime opportunity to investigate

*continued on page 20...*

# Score Card: How Did Our Representatives Vote?

The end of the 100-day period of the House Republican "Contract with America" coincides with the 25th anniversary of Earth Day. The relationship between the two days is strong, for on this hectic 14 weeks, the House has taken a running start at dismantling 25 years of federal environmental protection. The dismantling - the Senate must still consider several of these items. However, the scope of the House action is unprecedented. Future environmental legislation would be hobbled by legislative and budgetary hurdles, and future agency-generated safeguards would be tied in red tape and legal challenges. But the House action does not just block new protections. It guts old ones. If House-passed bills become law, they would:

- prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from enforcing rules to keep cryptosporidium, a parasite that killed over 100 people in Milwaukee in 1993, out of the nation's drinking water supply
- double logging in some national forests by waiving federal environmental laws
- excuse polluters from eliminating toxic waste sites by allowing them to claim public health is less important than their clean up costs
- redirect EPA and Department of Interior funds, used for environmental protection, to pay speculators, mining companies, and agribusinesses to comply with wetlands and Endangered Species Act requirements
- enable power plants to challenge impending acid rain controls, potentially voiding Clean Air Act requirements to reduce emissions

The League of Conservation Voters has published a special scorecard for the 100 day period to help the public understand the House program to halt environmental protection. The House-passed bills are so broad, so extreme, and so destructive, that most Americans may not be aware of the leadership's success in rolling back environmental protection. The text of the "Contract" does not mention environmental protection or resource conservation, so it is possible that most are not aware of the concerted, and so far successful, sneak attack on the environment. We have taken the ten most important and most representative votes of the environmental aspects of the "Contract" from the dozens cast. We believe that they represent a balanced view of the House and its members on the expanse of environmental protections.

Jim Maddy,  
President of the  
League of Conservation Voters

- is an anti-conservation vote  
+ is a pro-conservation vote

watershed Representatives	10 key House votes										conservation score
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Nathan Deal (R - GA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	= 0
Lindsey Graham (R - SC)	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	= 0
Charles Taylor (R - NC)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	= 0

watershed Senators	first key Senate votes		conservation score
	1	2	
Coverdell (R - GA)	-	-	= 0
Nunn (D - GA)	+	+	= 100
Faircloth (R - NC)	-	-	= 0
Helms (R - NC)	-	-	= 0
Thurmond (R - SC)	-	-	= 0
Hollings (D - SC)	+	+	= 100

The CRWC would like to thank Rep. Lindsey Graham of SC for writing a letter to Ralph Regula (R-Ohio), chairman of the House Interior Appropriations Committee, asking for \$2 million in funding for land acquisition in the Chattooga Watershed. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is under assault and needs support like this.



# A Letter from Senator Hollings

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DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY STUDY

May 4, 1995

Dear Editor,

Along the Palmetto State's northwestern border, the Chattooga National Wild and Scenic River is one of the Southeast's most popular outdoor recreation destinations. The Chattooga offers excellent trout fishing, world-famous whitewater rafting, canoeing and kayaking, and spectacular scenery for hiking, camping and sightseeing. In short the river's sheer rock cliffs, spectacular gorges, forested coves, stunning views and renown recreational opportunities attract hundreds of thousands of visitors and millions of dollars annually to South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

It is our good fortune that a majority of the 57-mile Chattooga River corridor is already protected. To preserve this truly unique and valuable natural attraction, the United States Forest Service initiated, with great success, the Chattooga River Watershed Protection Program. It strives to focus on preserving the river's headwaters, as well as land directly bordering the Chattooga itself. The goal is to prevent the degradation of the Chattooga habitat and maintain the river's exceptional water quality without placing regulatory burdens on private property owners.

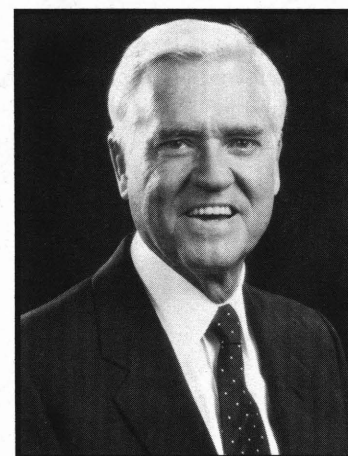
I have supported this worthwhile endeavor by working as a member of the Senate Interior Appropriations Committee to secure \$10.5 million since 1990 to acquire almost 5,000 acres in the watershed.

The most appealing aspect of these acquisitions is that the money used to buy the land comes from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), not the pockets of American taxpayers. The LWCF was created some 30 years ago. Aimed at preserving outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 directed that proceeds from the sale of offshore oil and gas drilling rights must go into the LWCF and be used to acquire land and water areas for outdoor recreation.

During the 1980's, there were a number of efforts made to eliminate the LWCF. Each time, Congress refused. It was my belief, as well as a majority of Congress, that purchasing land for public use can have multiple benefits, including recreation, tourist development, and habitat and clean water protection.

Although we've been successful in defending the LWCF, it appears the LWCF now finds itself in the crosshairs again. There are those here in Washington who now believe that the federal government should stop all land acquisition and use the LWCF for other purposes. I, for one, believe that would be a grave mistake. Not only will it threaten the Chattooga River Watershed Protection Program, but it may prove to be the killing blow to similar programs across the country.

The Chattooga is a natural free-flowing treasure. To keep protecting it, we need to keep supporting the Land and Water Conservation Fund.



*Senator Hollings is working  
to save public land  
acquisition from the budget  
cutter's axe*

Sincerely,

Ernest F. Hollings

# An Economic Analysis of the Chattooga Watershed Area

Rick Hester, from a study by Dr. Pete Morton

Dr. Pete Morton has recently completed the first draft of an economic profile of the four counties that lie partly within the Chattooga watershed. Jackson and Macon Counties in North Carolina, Oconee County in South Carolina, and Rabun County in Georgia together make up the Chattooga watershed area focused on in Dr. Morton's study. The profile includes some land, people and businesses outside of the watershed proper, because economic data necessary for the analysis is sorted by county, and because activities occurring in the watershed proper are integral to the economies of the local counties. The data sources used were the Bureau of Economic analysis, the Bureau of Census and economic reports issued by state-level government agencies.

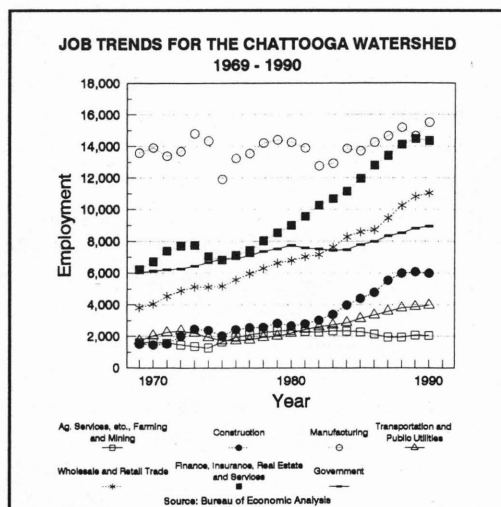
Dr. Morton investigated employment and income trends from 1969-1990, and highlighted trends for selected industries in the four-county Chattooga area. Comparisons are made between these local trends and the same statistics for the three-state region (including NC, SC and GA) and the United States as a whole. The report sketches a picture of the economic base of the area and how it has evolved over a twenty year period. Dr. Morton concludes by presenting some of the conventional wisdom in economics about maintaining a vibrant, diversified economic base, and how we might apply such thoughts here in the Chattooga area. What follows is a brief summary of Dr. Morton's findings which showed that overall, between 1970 and 1990 population, jobs, and labor and non-labor income all increased in the Chattooga area at rates greater than in the three-state region and in the U.S. as a whole.

Jobs in our area increased by 72% from 1969 to 1990. The combination of retail trade, services, construction and government sectors created most of the new jobs. The slowest growing sector was manufacturing (12% increase in jobs), and the fastest were finance, insurance and real estate (406% increase), followed by construction (310% increase). The top employers for the Chattooga area in 1990 were manufacturing (25% of total employment) and service-related industries including services, retail trade, government and construction (the combination accounted for 53% of total employment in the area). Self-employment has more than tripled in the last twenty years. In 1990 self-employed workers made up 20% of total employment in the Chattooga area. So,

overall employment has increased in our area, and the spectrum of occupations has diversified.

Income has grown and changed in composition as well. Real (adjusted for inflation) total personal income (TPI) in the Chattooga area increased by 120% from 1970-1990. Our growth in TPI was greater than for the three-state region and greater than the country as a whole. Non-labor income accounted for a large part of our area's total personal income (35% of TPI in 1990, an increase from 21% in 1970). The recent migration of retirees accounts for a good deal of this non-labor income (from pension funds and home equity gains they bring with them) and has significantly changed the dynamics of the local economy.

Individual industry trends were also examined. The manufacturing sector as a whole plays a more prominent role here than compared to its role in the three-state region or the entire U.S. The textile and apparel industry is arguably the most important industry in the area, accounting for nearly half of the manufacturing jobs. The wood products industry (a part of the manufacturing sector including lumber and wood products, paper and pulp, and furniture) accounted for only 1.3% of total personal income in the Chattooga area and 1-2% of total



employment in our area. Dr. Morton refers to two separate studies (Wade and O'Conner 1993, and USDA Forest Service 1988) that projected declines in employment in the industry due mainly to plant modernization. Such impacts of larger-scale modernization have already been felt by workers in the wood products industry in our area.

The recreation and tourism industry was estimated by examining a composite of service-producing businesses. Local residents use these businesses also, but assuming that 20-50% of this use is attributable to recreationalists and tourists, then the recreation and tourism sector accounted for 2-4% of total personal income and 3-8% of total employment in our area in 1990. Dr. Morton draws two conclusions from these figures. The first is that recreation and tourism diversifies, but does not dominate, our local economy. The second is that recreation and tourism are relatively more important than the wood products industry to our area's economy. Dr. Morton cites another study which found that "rural areas experiencing rapid population growth in the 70's and 80's were highly concentrated in areas adjacent to large tracts of public land that offered recreational and scenic amenities. The recreation and tourism industry, therefore, may attract more income into



# Economic Analysis continued...

an area (in the form of people relocating here with their accumulated savings) than is reflected in the analysis of visitor spending".

In general, the growth of an area's economy is somewhat dependent on exporting goods and services to markets outside the area - attracting outside money into the economy. Industries bringing in new dollars are termed "basic". Incoming money can be spent locally on goods and services, and hence support local jobs. Industries which are partially dependent on the basic industries for their survival are called non-basic. The collection of basic industries altogether make up an area's economic base.

In the four-county Chattooga area, although textiles are still very important, the economic base is diversified, with a variety of sectors producing exports. The wood products industry's contribution to the area's economic base can be estimated based on its share of income and employment within the manufacturing sector (7% of manufacturing income and 6-8% of manufacturing employment in 1990). Comparing these figures to the same statistics for the three-state region and U.S. in general leads to the conclusion that the wood products industry is less important to the economic base here than it is for the region or the nation. In addition, many of the new service jobs are not dependent on other basic industries for their survival, because they too are exporting goods and services, and importing cash into the local economy. Universities like Western North Carolina University (in Cullowhee, NC) contribute to the economic base as well by exporting knowledge in exchange for tuition and other fees, and attracting research dollars to the area. Some employment in businesses catering to tourists and recreationalists should be considered part of the economic base as well, because it is not dependent on other basic industries in the area. Non-labor income is also a part of the economic base, as it acts in the area economy in the same way as export-derived income. According to Dr. Morton, "The increase in non-labor income is significantly changing the economic base of the four-county area".

Dr. Morton concludes his study with the following: "The health of an area's economy depends somewhat on the growth and diversity of the economic base. The economic base in the United States is no longer composed primarily of the manufacturing sector. The increase in non-labor income and income earned at knowledge-based services - including engineering and management, business, health and telecommunications firms, as well as colleges and universities - has diversified the nation's economic base. The same basic services have

helped diversify the economic base of the Chattooga four-county area. Any analysis of the basic industries of the four-county area should fully account for the contribution of these 'basic' services and non-labor income to the region's economic base. This is an important point because many economists continue to ignore the contribution of these businesses to an area's economic base. A diverse economic base enhances an area's prospects for economic stability. Economic development plans should not promote reliance on one industry but should strive to diversify. As Rasker (1994) notes:

*The cornerstone of an economic diversity strategy is the creation of a favorable business climate and the protection of the cultural, social and environmental qualities that make a community a pleasant place to live and do business. In addition, the strategy should include investment in the infrastructure, such as education and telecommunications facilities, in order to promote entrepreneurial activity. In many instances the most economically productive role of public lands is not in resource extraction or tourism, but in protecting the landscape, the wildlife, the rivers and streams, and the scenery - all those things that collectively enhance the quality of life for local residents.*

The National Wild and Scenic Chattooga River and the surrounding

national forests represent natural assets for the four-county area and provide communities with a comparative advantage over other rural areas in diversifying their economic base. Rudzitis and Johansen (1989) conducted a random survey of recent migrants to wilderness counties and found that the most important reasons for relocating to a county with wilderness were the environmental and physical amenities, scenery, outdoor recreation and the pace of life. A survey of recent migrants to the four-county Chattooga area might reveal similar results.

The economic trends noted in the study provide an argument for the conservation of forest ecosystems in the area. The three national forests in the Chattooga watershed dominate the landscape, provide the scenic vistas, the hiking, camping, hunting and fishing opportunities that can retain existing residents and businesses while attracting new businesses, retirees, tourists and recreationalists to sustain the diversity of the area's economic base. As such, economic development will suffer if the forests are indiscriminately cut, recreation trails are not maintained or expanded, or if the habitat needed to sustain healthy populations of native species and hence the health of the ecosystem is not conserved".

**"The wood products industry accounted for only 1.3% of total personal income in the Chattooga area and 1-2% of total employment in our area"**

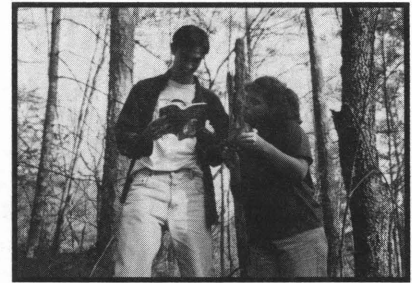


# Volunteers Make It Happen

**Rick Hester**

Volunteers have been busy the past few months. Monitoring Forest Service activities by visiting sites, ground-truthing project data, and alerting adjacent landowners has been the highest priority. Here, often we find that USFS information is inaccurate, or incomplete regarding predicted environmental impacts. Another project made possible by one volunteer involved researching the recent history of timber sales in the watershed, and producing a spreadsheet summarizing the Forest Service's timber program documentation. Other folks helped in our cooperative effort with the Forest Service to stabilize an eroding river bank on the West Fork of the Chattooga. Volunteers have also initiated a final wave of signature collecting on our Petition for Interim Management of National Forests in the Southern Appalachians, by talking to visitors at our petition table at Tallulah Point. And last, but far from least, all kinds of folks have contributed their time and energy to less exciting but necessary jobs in the office - jobs like map work, phone calls to organize volunteer projects, mailing list updating, data entry, and a whole lot of sticking-on-labels and distributing newsletters.

Volunteers are vital to the effectiveness of the Chattooga River Watershed Coalition. Without them, we might have to close up shop. In fact, our Coalition has its roots in voluntary citizen organization and action, and the organization continues to be shaped by the freely-offered good ideas and hard work of concerned local residents.



*Clemson U. students ground-truth tree species composition in USFS proposed timber sales*



*Huntin' salamanders at last year's workshop*

Why be concerned: how can our group directly affect solutions? I think you know the story. We are constantly flooded with news, from all over the world and here at home, about conflicts, upheavals and civil and environmental destruction of all sorts. Some of these events, tragically, may be a feature of the human landscape for some time to come. There is so much bad news out there, that sometimes we just want to escape it, ignore it, tune it out. It doesn't take much reflection, however, on current events and human and natural history to conclude that we are living in a time of change, unprecedented in its global scale and relentless pace. With so much changing so fast, it's easy for us to get confused and even misplace some of the basics that make life the miracle it is.

CRWC volunteer efforts ultimately focus on that which sustains our physical existence. This place we call home, here in the Chattooga watershed or wherever you live, provides us with air, water and food - their availability

(quantity) and their ability to sustain life (quality) are tied to the integrity of natural ecosystems. Whatever changes occur in the uncertain evolution of global, regional and local economies, we must ensure the health of the natural systems that are ultimately the source of our sustenance. No economic philosophy or system can replace the land, the water, the air, and the complex patterns and processes of the living landscape that we depend on for our survival.

In the recent past, we thought we could pick apart the living landscape to keep what we wanted and remove what we did not. For the past several hundred years, and especially since the end of WWII, we have done just that - here in the U.S. and across the face of the world; everywhere, modern industrial economies have taken root. Today we are beginning to realize that the living landscape does not so easily separate into the useful and the useless. The patterns and processes of life are such that, as William Blake put it, "we try and pick out just one thing from life, and we find it tied to all the heavens - all our days and nights". What we previously thought of as useless and even a nuisance turns out to be a crucial link in a pattern and a process that provides us eventually with the useful and even necessary. These pieces, patterns and processes all tied together make up what we call an ecosystem. Perhaps the most troubling news of our times is that ecosystem patterns and processes are breaking down all over the world. We have stopped or drastically modified natural processes important to our own survival, and we've noticed the results for years in the absence of key parts of the whole - individual native species. The present rate of



*Slippery critters like this one are good indicators of the health of the watershed ecosystem*



## Volunteers continued...

extinction of living species has no precedent, even on geologic time scales. When the dinosaurs were snuffed out, the rate of species extinguished per year was smaller in magnitude than our present pace of destruction. Scientists call this the global biodiversity crisis, and it may be the most telling event of our times, for these are our contemporaries, and their viability is tied tightly to our own viability as a species of life on Earth. Yes, there is reason for concern about the ecosystems that ultimately provide our sustenance, and the best measure we have of ecosystem health is the viability of native species in the landscape. The health of our ecosystem is a vital sign to track in times of turbulence.

Awareness of the global biodiversity crisis and the necessity of addressing the issue in a bioregional context are only conceptual steps. Where awareness and grand strategy are translated into effective solutions is down here in local, on-the-ground volunteer action. The Chattooga River Watershed has been identified (by federal agencies, in the USFS "Chattooga River Basin Ecosystem Management Demonstration Project", and by private citizens who formed or joined the CRWC) as an anchor for the health of the bioregion. Here, where the foothills meet the Southern Appalachians at the Blue Ridge Escarpment, we live in a unique confluence of two bioregions that create an extraordinary diversity of native species. Here also, we are in an important gateway where, as the natural and human-induced processes of the bioregions fluctuate, native species can migrate between changing conditions. Migrations through areas like this are scientifically referred to as gene flow, and are recognized as crucial to the viability of native species, the health of the bioregion, and ultimately to the well being of all of us that depend on the soils, waters, and life of the Southern Appalachians.

The Chattooga River watershed is unique in its ability to play this vital role and is a priority for action in the conservation of global biodiversity.

Here in the Chattooga watershed we are "thinking globally and acting locally" by first relearning, for some of us, a "sense of place". Through workshops on local human and natural history, we have begun to get a feel for the ways of life that have been and continue to be associated with this land, and the impacts these different ways of life have had on the ecosystem. Also, we are ground-truthing inventories in the Andrew Pickens District of the Sumter National Forest in SC, the Highlands District of the Nantahala National Forest in NC, and the Tallulah District of the Chattahoochee National Forest in GA. Forest inventories will be the basis for a new set of Forest Plans, which are now being drafted in all three national forests of the watershed. Submitting our own ground-truthed inventories is an essential step in creating ecologically sound Forest Plan alternatives, and promoting their adoption in the final Environmental Impact Statement. The roads inventory must be submitted within the next three weeks. We're also monitoring individual Forest Service projects on-the-ground and documenting their effects on the watershed. A church youth group will soon be visiting the area, and breaking new ground in citizen monitoring of water quality. With information gained from on-the-ground monitoring and ground-truthing, the public can be confident in its recommendations concerning the management of their public lands.

How do we do all these things? Volunteers, organized into field teams, are the only way we can cover so much ground. Field teams ground-truth USFS information, document what they find in pictures and/or plot surveys, and communicate their findings to the USFS, adjacent landowners and the wider public, often with the objective of modifying

## Workshops Calendar

**Saturday, May 27**

**Salamanders as Indicators of Ecosystem Health**

**Mark Hopey**

**Saturday, July 8**

**Poisonous Critters Identification and First Aid**

**Esther Noel and Buzz Williams**

**Saturday, June 17**

**Creating Sustainable Wood Products**

**Buzz Williams**

**Saturday, July 29**

**Identifying Old Growth and Priority Restoration Sites**

**Paul Carlson**

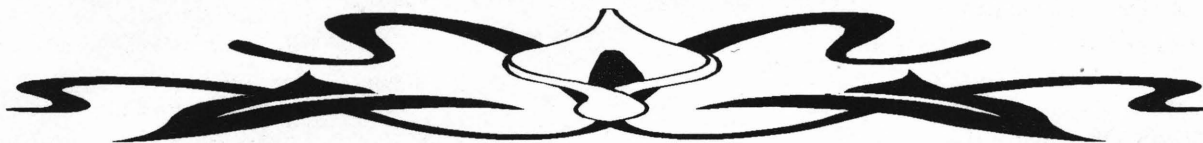
## CRWC Background information

The National Wild and Scenic Chattooga River is one of the gems of the Southern Appalachians. All of the river and the greater part of its watershed is contained in three national forests adjoining in North and South Carolina and Georgia (the Nantahala, Sumter and Chattahoochee National Forests). The mountain physiography and cool, rainy climate of this area gives rise to one of the richest displays of flora and fauna in North America. The area also sustains unique opportunities for scenic beauty and recreation. Yet for many years the lands within the watershed have been managed primarily for intensive timber extraction.

The Chattooga River Watershed Coalition formed during the summer of 1991 around the drafting of a proposal to manage the watershed as a coherent, functioning ecosystem. The driving force for this proposal was the recognition that the national forest system surrounding the river was undergoing steady degradation due to the cumulative effects of intensive timber harvesting, excessive road-building and fragmentation from private inholdings. After persistent pressure on the Forest Service (FS) to adopt our management plan, all the while continuing to gather endorsements for it from the public, we were pleased to learn in January of 1993 that the

Forest Service had secured significant funding to develop an ecosystem management plan for the Chattooga River basin. It became increasingly demanding for the widely separated volunteers steering the Coalition to monitor and perform oversight on Forest Service on-the-ground proposals, and the agency's "ecosystem management demonstration project", plus continue to develop our own programs. The Coalition worked to establish an organizational structure to aid our effectiveness and enable us to become more proactive.

In July of 1994, the CRWC gained a full time executive director to develop the organization in accordance with its stated goals and objectives. With this guidance, programs have grown and solidified. Programs now in place include: volunteer "monitoring teams" organized to field-check and compile data about certain areas of the forest, public and media out reach, public workshops and a quarterly newsletter, monitoring and responding to FS on-the-ground proposals and to their "Chattooga River... Project", and conducting Coalition-sponsored research projects. We shall continue to pursue the goals outlined in our proposal, and work for implementation of our objectives in the entire Chattooga River watershed.



## Volunteers continued...

the planned project. Later they return to monitor developments like modifications, landowner actions, or in some cases, the effects of implementation of the project.

We invite you to join us in taking action, on-the-ground in this key watershed. The following are all ongoing efforts needing additional work:

- \*- collecting any and all remaining signatures on the Petition for Interim Management
- \*- USFS project monitoring
- \*- ground-truthing USFS roads inventories and forest timber types
- \*- monitoring salamander populations and habitats as indicators of ecosystem health
- documenting the condition of recreation trails
- finding old growth and old growth restoration sites
- we can always use additional help in the office as well, with newsletter labels and distribution, computer work, organizing field team outings, etc.

To conclude, volunteers are acting to monitor and protect the native ecological integrity of the Chattooga River watershed, to anchor and guide the reinvigoration of the Southern Appalachian Bioregion. We are acting locally, and in a bioregional context, to address the global biodiversity crisis and increase the viability of native species, not the least of which is our own - the human species. Volunteers created this organization, and with your help can we complete priority tasks (\*) and fulfill the purpose of our organization. Please call, write, drop by the office, or attend the listed workshops to become actively involved.



*CRWC volunteers help out with the Forest Service stream bank stabilization project on the West Fork*





## Recreation continued from page 4...

of the "minority" seemed an invasion of their traditional ways of life.

As the population has grown in the South, so has the demand for recreational opportunities in the Chattooga watershed. Now, there is a great demand for horseback riding, hunting and fishing, mountain bike and hiking trails, and areas for sightseeing and nature study, to name a few. These activities require facilities outside of the corridor designated as Wild and Scenic, and require areas on public land which have traditionally been designated for other activities such as hunting and timber management. Conflicts have emerged for forest managers and forest users, as this demand grows.

One problem caused by ever-growing numbers of recreationists in the Chattooga River watershed is the conflict between commercial and private boaters on the river. Projections by the Forest Service predict that recreation use will double in the South by the year 2040. In 1989, the Forest Service sponsored a symposium at Clemson University to obtain public input concerning the demands and conflicts among river users. The outcome was that most people thought commercial use should remain at current levels. The private users were concerned that a push for more user days by the outfitting and guiding industry would take away some of the use which had been allocated to them by the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Sumter National Forest, which was delegated as the lead Forest in administering the floating use on the Chattooga. Private paddlers were also concerned that conflicts would prompt restrictions on their numbers, instead of controls over an increasingly powerful outfitting and guiding industry. With the exception of some limitations on organized groups, there are currently no efforts to restrict the number of private boaters on the Chattooga River. But as demand increases, the Forest Service will inevitably be forced to implement measures to control private use in order to protect the quality of the experience as outlined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Adding to speculation that private boaters on the Chattooga will soon be targeted for restrictions or user fees is the need, due to deficit reduction budgets, to find new sources of revenue for recreation programs on the national forests. Traditionally, one of the primary sources of funding for recreation programs has been from timber sales receipts. In recent years, the timber programs on public lands have come under fire from groups like The Wilderness Society, whose economists claim that timber sales are often sold at below-cost. Conservation groups claim that the timber program amounts to nothing more

than another federal "corporate welfare" program. Their claims are often substantiated by the Forest Service, which admits that timber sales in mountainous country like the Chattooga River watershed are frequently money-losers. With shrinking funds coming from a "budget balancing" Congress, agencies are once again looking to the private sector for support. Private paddlers may be asked to pay user fees for floating down the river.

In a recent public meeting in Asheville, NC, attended by Chief of the Forest Service Jack Ward Thomas, citizens agreed that "user fees" to address budgetary problems in the agency were a top issue. As numbers increase on the Chattooga, the idea of user fees will inevitably be more attractive to forest managers, and to Congress, as a viable source of funding for recreation

**"Of note is the inconsistency in these allocations which favor commercial use over private use by 163,000 user days"**

programs. Speculation about the effects of user fees in the Chattooga River watershed brings up several interesting questions. Will the fees exclude those who are either unwilling or unable to pay? Should fees be assessed only on those who visit the river, and not on those who receive benefits indirectly or vicariously? Is it fair to assess fees against individuals, when corporate interests that utilize other public lands for private profit receive subsidies? (This

refers to mining, grazing, and logging interests). All of these issues will have a bearing on which user groups will benefit from specific management strategies.

One potential conflict that looms large on the horizon for the Chattooga River watershed is that of "carrying capacities". Of particular concern is the difference in the allocation of user days for private versus commercial use. Currently, the number of user days allocated for total commercial use by the Forest Plan is approximately 235,000 people per year. Total allocations for private use are approximately 72,000 people per year. Though the actual allocations are controlled by an operating plan issued yearly at the District level, the Forest Service admits that there is "an opportunity for use up to the level of the Forest Plan". The latest figures provided by the Forest Service indicate that total use on the Chattooga in 1994 was: commercial 57,881; private 24,590. These figures mean that commercial use has reached 24.6%, and private use has reached 34% of all the potential use that is allocated to them by the Forest Plan. Of note is the inconsistency in these allocations which favor commercial use over private use by 163,000 user days. If the private boater more appropriately fits the profile of the ideal user for which the river should be managed, how is this inconsistency justified? As demand for private use increases this will surely be a source of

## Recreation continued...

conflict between user groups.

There are several other obvious conflicts which are sure to occur between user groups in the Chattooga River watershed, as demand rises. Paramount among these is the conflict between horseback riders and whitewater paddlers. The best example is the recent dispute over the river crossing at Earl's Ford. Since pre-Columbian times the best place to cross the Chattooga River has been at Earl's Ford. But since whitewater sports were identified as the primary use by forest managers, the ford has been managed as a primary launch point for boaters. Since the early 1970s, horseback riding was considered "incompatible" with management requiring

"unpolluted water". Nonetheless in the late 1980's, systems of horse trails were developed in the Chattooga watershed as a joint project between the Chattahoochee (GA) and Sumter (SC) National Forests. However, it was decided that horses would be excluded from Earl's Ford. Forest managers decided that it would be unsafe for both user groups to utilize the same area. Several new fords between Earl's Ford and Highway 28 were designated for crossing between the trail systems of the two national forests. Horse people complained that these fords were inferior to Earl's Ford. Indeed, most agree that the original ford had been chosen by Amer-Indians and settlers alike as the shallowest and safest place to cross. Recently, the South Carolina Horsemen's Council has discussed making a request to the Forest Service to re-route trails to accommodate both horses and boaters in the Earl's Ford area. The proposal would call for parallel trails to the river, and would avoid conflict at the ford by moving floater use to a put-in slightly downstream. Again, demand is the key factor in a potential user clashes in the Chattooga River watershed.

These examples are but a brief review of some of the more apparent



*Adline Ford: the best alternative to Earl's Ford for crossing on horseback*

conflicts occurring now, which are likely to escalate in the future on the Chattooga. The CRWC is dedicated to presenting citizens with the facts concerning these issues, so the public can interface with land managers to make the

wisest decisions to resolve conflicts. We'll also be taking a position on these issues, representing our goal to protect the integrity of the native ecosystems of the watershed. This, of course, will include human use as an integral part of this ecosystem. Advocacy for a feasible recreation program will be an important part of any position we promote for management of the watershed. We will always focus on the quality of the user's experience that best represents the wilderness-type experience for which the Chattooga River has been designated. Though it is a national resource, our positions will always give special consideration to those who live in the watershed, without compromising national objectives. As demand increases, we will be ready to ensure that the Chattooga River remains wild and free, where future generations will have opportunities for

recreation in a setting where the healing powers of the native ecology flourish.



*Erosion is the biggest concern with horseback riding trails in the watershed*



# An Interview with Dr. Claude Terry, owner of Southeastern Expeditions

*Buzz Williams talks with Claude Terry at his home in Long Creek, SC, on Easter Sunday.*

BW: The first question I want to ask is: when did you discover the Chattooga River?

CT: Buzz, I came here in 1968, that was the first time I was on the river. I had come to Emory University in '67. The Georgia Canoeing Association was new, and a group of us ran Section III, and a couple of weeks later, 6 or 8 of us ran Section IV.

BW: 1968 was the year Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, was it not?

CT: Right, and the Chattooga was put into it as a study river, with five years of study that could be done.

BW: So it wasn't an instant Wild and Scenic river, it was a study river?

CT: Right. It was the Nixon era, and it was not a foregone

conclusion that the river would go in. It was a little bit like

today, in a way, in that you had sort of a mixed point of view at the Forest Service level. You had the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation which was pretty strong then, and other divisions of the Forest Service, generating different recommendations on the issue.

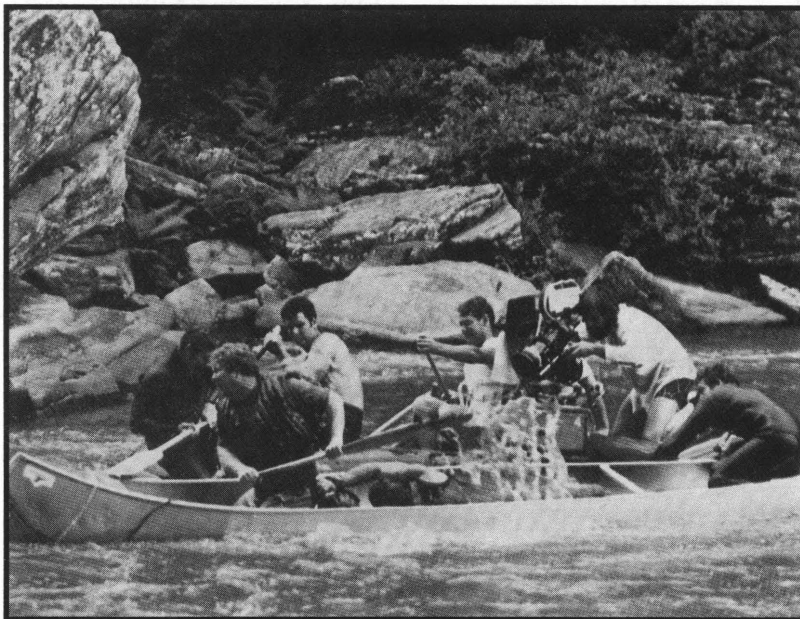
BW: The Chattooga wasn't designated until May of 1974. Tell us about those years between '68 and '74 and how that all came about. How is it that you and the other folks who were trying to get this designation were actually able to accomplish that?

CT: Well, people like Fritz Orr who was able to persuade then Governor Lester Maddox to come and go down the river. Horace Holden, Payson Kennedy and Billy Crawford were all sequentially Presidents of the Georgia Canoeing Association, and we were providing the vehicle to get people on the river. Then Payson started the Outing Club at Georgia Tech, and they were able to do the same. When Carter went in as Governor, we got him on the river. During this period I canoed with him, and the Tech Outing Club took him for a raft trip on Section IV. When they decided to film "Deliverance" here, we in the Georgia Canoeing Association saw it as a vehicle to publicize the

river. Doug Woodward, Payson Kennedy and myself worked as stuntmen during the filming.

BW: Do you think the filming of "Deliverance" actually helped expose the Chattooga to a lot of people, and therefore gained more support for it becoming designated?

CT: I think that absolutely happened. It was a major reason for choosing this river. Once the movie came out, there was tremendous publicity, and some adverse



*Filming Deliverance*

publicity, because of the deaths on the river that quickly ensued. People were going down the river with inadequate gear, even in what we used to call "Coke rafts." Those were the vinyl rafts that were given away by companies as promotionals.

BW: That was the "Deliverance Syndrome" as people often referred to it. Those days when people flocked to the Chattooga because of the movie, and had problems, did that affect the safety regulations that were later

implemented by the Forest Service?

CT: Yes, I think it did. We have often said that the Chattooga is the second most regulated river in the country, or maybe third after the Selway and the Grand Canyon; but it's very highly regulated and many of the regulatory programs that the Forest Service and other agencies have done were first tried on the Chattooga. After the movie and when the deaths started, I did a show with ABC-TV Sports on safety and John Voight did a voice-over, trying to raise awareness about the "syndrome" and what happened to people. I think that the Forest Service tried very hard to get control of that issue, and were eventually somewhat successful with implementing various safety guidelines. At that time they stressed the idea of the wider public using outfitters to see the river. Some people in the Forest Service, at that time however, probably never really endorsed the recreational aspect of the river, or the river as a focus for bringing recreational use to the mountains around here. I have always seen this as a natural recreational area. If we can keep the quality of the experience high, both on the river and in the forests themselves, then the local economy will benefit. That is,



## Interview continued...

we need to avoid destruction of the forests and avoid over-commercialization of both the river and the area. You want to keep it so that it is in fact forested; wild, and the reason it attracts people is because of its scenic beauty all the way around.

BW: Which brings me to another key question: in the testimony you gave before Congress when they were considering Wild & Scenic designation (and correct me if I'm wrong) you said that one of the biggest threats to the Chattooga was over-commercialization. And now, you are one of the original outfitters, one of only three allowed to operate on the Chattooga. How do you feel about that issue now? Is it over-commercialized? Could you stand more commercial trips?

CT: I think we're at a pretty good level. We, as outfitters, tested a lot of different numbers of trips and sizes of trips. I ran a lot of trips before there were regulations. I tried trips as high as 75 people. I ran trips where we had no guides in the rafts, had guides in the rafts; small trips, large trips. The outfitters themselves on this river picked the size of the trip, and in cooperation with the Forest Service set the number of trips. We picked the distances between trips based on the Sutton's hole area. We needed space enough to keep anyone entering the Sutton's hole straight stretch from seeing someone exiting it. The numbers have been pretty well fixed for 15 or 20 years. Now, granted, there have been spaces that were not filled during those times, but most of the capacity for use of the river was designated years ago. A few years ago, there was a decision to move all the commercial trips so they launched in the mornings to keep them out of conflict with the private boaters' use. None of us really opposed that.

BW: Some of the language in the original study report and in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act itself spells out very clearly that places like the Chattooga should be managed for solitude, challenge, risk, adventure and a high degree of outdoor skills. Has it changed? Are we emphasizing the commercial raft trip too much, and not enough for solitude and the individual experience?

CT: It's a very difficult question, I think, for anyone to answer. Of course the experience at mid afternoon on a summer weekend has changed. I think that there is a balance to be maintained here, and unfortunately, regardless of my attitudes and other outfitter's, I think that as the population grows, you will see pressures to put more and more people on the river, or to commercialize it a bit more. I don't want to see the river become the Ocoee or the Nantahala; I don't want to see us commercialize it until

it becomes just a free-running Six Flags.

BW: If you were to work to get the Forest Service to agree to let you do trips that were interpretive, environmentally oriented, and educational trips, would the outfitters ask for additional user days, or would they give up some of their regular raft trips in order to move into this other type of trip?

CT: No, no new use. If I were doing it, I would want it based on demand. But to replace a trip with those kind of trips, you'd have to get a different time period, you'd have to extend your time. In other words, the time on the water can't be the same - you can't make the "windows." I wish we had more time for interpretation, more time for relaxation on the trips, but the Forest Service, and to some extent, those people who want to keep the operators in

their original framework, constrain us from doing more interpretive things - from slowing down. I do think, with advance notice, the Forest Service would allow it.

BW: If someone argues that they can do things on the river just as well as your company, and therefore should have the right to bid on a permanent slot on the Chattooga, what is your response?

CT: They may have had a right - there was a time when they were allowed to bid. There was an open bid process on the Chattooga, and I think only one other river where it was ever tried. You have to give certain preferences to a prior user, because there was no use when we

**"I don't want to see the river become the Ocoee or the Nantahala; I don't want to see us commercialize it until it becomes just a free-running Six-Flags."**

started, no commercial use; in one sense, we built that. One group of outfitters, by curtailing ourselves, by never suing, nor pushing to get more use, by cooperating on safety and conservation while at the same time competing avidly in the private marketplace, and by going through this process of suggesting the limits to the Forest Service that we did; it seems to me that we have operated on a relatively marginal basis financially, and at the same time we have built businesses. So can someone else do the same thing that we do? There's probably someone else that can, but do you really want to take a chance on getting commercialized the way many other rivers have? If you put slots out on an open bid, whoever wins the bid is going to try to maximize his return values because he knows he may be out-bid in five years. The moment you treat it that way - not as an ongoing business where you try to work within the community, and the conservation movement, and other aspects, to make it work, but rather as a short-term gamble - then you change fundamentally the nature of what anyone who is going to bid on a permit is going to do. These aspects of the issue often are not well considered.

BW: You talked earlier about working with a group of

# Interview continued...

people to get the Chattooga designated as Wild and Scenic, and one of those people was Jimmy Carter. Can you describe this picture for me?

CT: It's a picture of Jimmy Carter and I going down the Chattooga, which cost me the co-chairmanship of American Canoe Association's Safety Committee.

BW: Because you didn't have your life jacket on?

CT: Yep, they booted me out two weeks later. (laughs)

They didn't understand - they thought the rapid was severe, and it's not much of a rapid. My jacket was in the boat and the Governor had on a life jacket, but they wanted me in a helmet and a life jacket. Anyway, they asked me to resign. I may be the only person I know that was asked to resign as Safety Chairman of the American Canoe Association and as Conservation Chairman for the Sierra Club, both because of my association with Jimmy Carter!

BW: How did the former president feel about running the river? Was that the first time he'd been down?

CT: That was the first time he'd canoed it - he kayaked part of it, and I taught him to roll the kayak

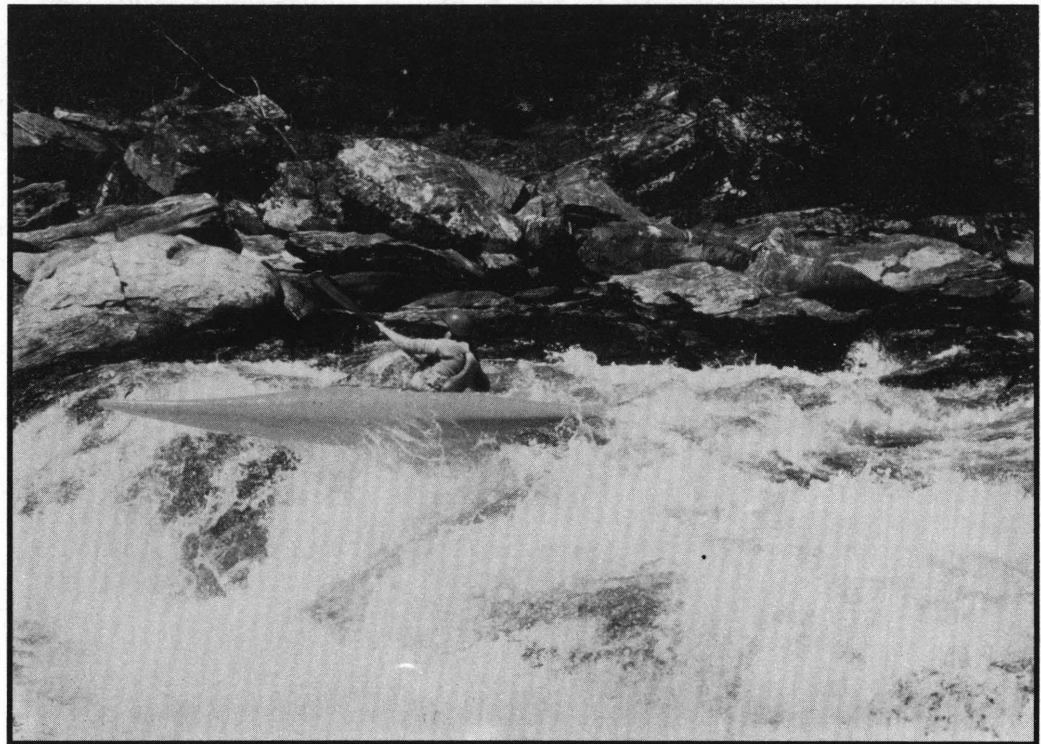
in the pool at Emory. He rafted the lower stretch with the Georgia Tech Outing Club.

BW: Did he play a key role in the designation of the Chattooga?

CT: He played an absolutely key role that, as far as I know, has never been publicly discussed. You see, there was a rider on a bill to put the Chattooga in, and Scoop Jackson didn't like the rider, and was going to turn it down. He was going to keep the bill in committee. I called up the Governor's office and said that I needed to talk to the Governor. The Governor was not amused by the phone call, even though he had been on the river, and he said: "Have you guys exhausted every administrative remedy that you have on this? What have you done?" I went through all that had been done to try to get Wild and Scenic status for the Chattooga. Finally he said "Claude, I'm going to call up Scoop..." [he had nominated Scoop for president in 1972] "...and ask him as a personal favor to get this bill out of committee. I hope you understand, you guys owe me one on this one." Lots of folks got credit, and deserved it, but the victory was really, to a large

extent, Jimmy Carter's.

BW: That's good to hear. We had the opportunity to meet with President Carter a couple of weeks ago, and we showed him a picture of a clear-cut right above Bull Sluice rapid, one that comes right down against the Chattooga River Trail, adjacent to the river corridor. He was very concerned, and I wonder how you feel as an outfitter and someone who uses the river as frequently as you do, and



*Sock 'em Dog, Section IV recently claimed the life of a rafter on a private trip*

having come from the same position as Carter: are you also concerned about the timber program and how the Forest Service is managing the timber program in the Chattooga River watershed?

CT: When we were looking at making the Chattooga a Wild and Scenic river, Don Shedd, who then worked with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, asked me what I thought we should be protecting along the river. Should we protect the view line? He and I argued about whether you should go to the top of the view shed, or should you go up the feeder streams and the side streams, and try to protect as much as you can of the entire watershed? My feeling has always been that we should be protecting the watershed of a river that's as valuable to the area as the Chattooga. Also, I have been concerned about Highlands [NC] for years. At that upper end of the watershed we have fairly rapid development, which seems to be accelerating rather than being more controlled. I'm also always concerned about clear-cuts. What's going to come back, why are we doing a clear-cut? Now, many of us realize that unless you have blocks of forest a mile or more

## Interview continued...

square, you aren't really protecting many of the songbirds from the ravages of the crows and the jays and other "edge" effects. We've created a larger "edge" effect, and perhaps much more than we need. So, I'm always concerned about a clear-cut in national forests. When it impinges on Chattooga watershed, and when it impinges on the corridor, I'm extremely concerned.

BW: The Forest Service is saying now that clear-cutting is not an issue, that they have moved away from it. However, our research into the issues has shown that they're moving to other forms of even aged management, which in effect are two or three step clear-cuts; the end result is the same. We feel strongly that this is due to excess pressure being put on the Forest Service to "get the cut out", or hit congressionally mandated timber targets. Right now, bills are in Congress to increase that pressure on the Forest Service. Meanwhile, the Chattooga River has been chosen as the site of an "ecosystem management demonstration project", and we were just beginning to find some common ground and work with the Forest Service on adjusting some of these timber harvesting methods towards a more natural system of uneven age timber management. Are you as concerned as we are about this excessive pressure on the agency to "get the cut out"?

CT: Well, let's go back to what you said about the ecosystem point of view. I think many of us have long thought that you can't change just one thing. It's the reason for the ecosystem approach. When I was a graduate student, I attended Dr. Eugene Odum's courses and embraced his point of view, his attitudes about ecosystems. I think as a country boy, I always knew ...as I think most of us did, that we had to have something that was sustainable. Sustainable doesn't just mean the volume of cut that you get off a piece of land, it means in the quality of what you're doing. And it also means sustaining, for instance, the organisms in the soil that provide fertility. When you cut and then get a very hot burn on downed timber, you're apt to kill off much of the fungal and bacterial material. You find a year or two later that all your nitrates and phosphates go draining out of the soil and go down the stream. You have to be very careful with what you consider sustainable. The ecosystem approach is really the way to do this. It is the way, if we'll use it right, to understand what sustainability means. Does it mean the sustainability of large dimensional white oak timber, or does it mean sustainability of pulpwood? Those are two different things. I'm quite concerned that we maintain the quality of the national forests. If the timber is going to be taken off them, let's take off a little high quality timber from the national forests. Right now we'll have to wait a long time to do that. Let's put back the nutrients; if we're

going to take it off, then let's not degrade the quality to the point the entire U.S. national forest system is capable of only producing pulpwood.

BW: One way of doing that, we believe, is to aim some of the timber sales at the small logger, instead of a large scale operation that needs to use big trucks and big system roads. Compartment 59, behind Southeastern Expeditions is right now being considered for a new type of management aimed at exactly that. Smaller sales that would utilize

small, short-bed trucks and local logging operations, in order to harvest trees with a "lighter touch". Will you support us on that proposal before the Forest Service - to go in there and try one of these more progressive types of timber harvesting?

CT: Well, I'd have to see the proposal, of course; it may be that I'd prefer they didn't do any cutting at all adjacent to me. But given what you're saying, I'm reminded of something somebody said years ago.

Frank Rickman, who had spent his life, I guess, logging, stood up at a meeting and said: "You know, we ought to go back to oxen and cables and all the things we used to do. I run the bulldozer now, and I bring more dirt off in my cuffs at the end of the

day than I used to take off my oxen in a week". I never forgot that remark of Frank's - this is a logger saying this. Whatever we do in the Southern Appalachians, and country-wide, involving a national resource that belongs to the people, should provide the maximum amount of jobs to local people. It should go back to helping local people earn a living. And I don't mean it in opposition to anyone doing the "efficient" way of logging, but if efficiency means that local people lose jobs, I prefer to see the local people working, if possible, from our forest. So, there does need to be a balance between harvesting those areas that are harvestable, and not cutting the edges of streams or destroying critical habitat or causing erosion. But yes, if there is an ecosystem approach that also helps the small logger - I don't know how you do that; but if you can do those things all at once, sure it makes more sense.

BW: Tell me a little bit about the Stekoa Creek Committee and what that group is trying to do.

CT: At the time the National Wild and Scenic River bill was passed, one stream we pointed out as a problem was Stekoa Creek. Because of fecal coliforms and general other evidence of pollution in Stekoa Creek, which enters the river close to the Five Falls area. We've always wanted to see Stekoa Creek cleaned up. Now the outfitters have gotten together and have provided some funding. We have tried to look at the water quality of Stekoa Creek, and to start watershed projects to improve the water quality of Stekoa Creek. We just wish that the State of Georgia

**"We've  
created a  
larger 'edge'  
effect, and  
perhaps much  
more than we  
need"**

*continued on page 21...*



# Chasing Spring Flowers up the Chattooga

Chas Zartman

Whether you enjoy exploring the wildlands of the Chattooga Basin by foot or canoe you're bound to stumble across some of the colorful faces that make up the Chattooga's early spring flora. Anyone who has spent time on the River this spring must have witnessed the eye-catching display of the bright baby-blue patches of bluets (*Houstonia serpyllifolia*) in flower, but I'd wager that many of you may have drifted past the more inconspicuous blooms of the Yellowroot (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima*). The tiny, star-shaped, Yellowroot flowers dangle in clusters from the base of the newly emerging leaves, and are usually present at eye-level for the canoeist to admire. The exceptionally observant canoeist may notice that the outer whorl of the flower consists only of brownish-purple sepals (sepals are what?) -- the Yellowroot has no true petals.

For those explorers more intrigued by visiting the Chattooga on foot, you're likely to witness an entirely different variety of spring wildflowers. Most of the early herbaceous bloomers, known in botanical parlance as the "spring ephemerals," are in peak form for only a few days. But don't fret if you missed the delicate, yellow flowers of the Trout Lily (*Erythronium umbilicatum*) at the base of Long Creek Falls; just plan a hike to the high-elevation coves of the Chattooga headwaters where their flowers, along with the delicate white blooms of the Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), are possibly lingering into early May.

An early spring challenge for the walker who prefers exploring the Chattooga's side creeks, seepages and moist places is to locate the Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) in bloom. The tiny, pale yellow-green flowers are usually scattered in tight clusters along the branches, and are open before the leaves have budded out. If you're uncertain about your identification just scrape the twig and sniff! These shrub-sized plants are aromatic and have an odor that is reminiscent of Sassafras-- a close and more charismatic relative of the Spicebush. Upon closer examination of its flower, the discriminating eye may notice that, depending on the plant's gender, it is lacking one of the two fertile flower parts. Spicebush is commonly

a dioecious plant which literally translated from Greek means "two houses". In other words, the shrub has male (staminate) and female (pistillate) flowers on separate plants; and therefore is dependent on another plant of the opposite sex for successful fertilization. The Spicebush, which is a member of the Lauraceae (Laurel) Family, can be used by humans in a variety of ways. According to Marie Mellinger's *The Trees Upon the Mountain*, it's

"bright red berries, which appear in the autumn, were used [by early settlers] as a substitute for cinnamon or allspice," and the freshly cut spring twigs make an aromatic tonic and tea.

If you're the more flexible type who enjoys travelling in any kind of terrain throughout the Chattooga basin then there's a good chance you'll come across a number of species from one of the most complex, and diverse flowering plant groups in the southern Appalachians: the Trilliums. Although Trilliums, which are members of the Lily family, can be found throughout temperate North America as well as in Japan, China, and eastern Siberia, Trillium diversity reaches an apex in these southern mountains. The Chattooga basin hosts up to

possibly a dozen of these species, two of which, the Pale Yellow Trillium (*Trillium discolor*) and the federally endangered Persistent Trillium (*Trillium persiciens*), are restricted in range to the lower Chattooga and other neighboring headwater tributaries of the Savannah River.

Trilliums have adapted to an incredible range of habitats in the southern Appalachians, and no place in the mountains is this range better represented than in the Chattooga Basin. From the moist, dark heath slicks of the headwaters to the drier slopes and ridges around sections III and IV, you're sure to cross paths with the familiar three-leaved, three-petaled Trillium bloom. Several Trillium species found in the Chattooga basin are of New England origins and are therefore restricted to the cooler, higher-elevation coves of the extreme headwaters. A spring journey in the woods around Section 00 could offer you the chance to stumble upon the upraised faces of the Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum*). The common names of Trillium species are in a mass of disarray as many people call *Trillium erectum* anything from Red or Purple Trillium to Stinking Benjamin or Wake Robin. To make



*Wake Robin (Trillium erectum), one of the "millions of trilliums" in the watershed*

## Spring Flowers continued...

matters even more puzzling, this species also exhibits a variety of petal colors ranging from maroon to white, green, or shades in between. Try not to confuse this species with its close relative the Vasey's Trillium (*Trillium vaseyi*). Unlike the Red Trillium, Vasey's Trillium populations are centered in the Southern Appalachians and the flowers can be distinguished from the Red Trillium by their position relative to the leaves. The Vasey's flower usually dangles beneath the three leaves and from above the plant, is a much more inconspicuous bloom than that of the flaunting Red Flowered Trillium.

The lower half of the Chattooga hosts several species of Trillium that are incredibly unique in their own right-- one of which is the previously mentioned Pale Yellow Trillium. The Pale Yellow Trillium (*Trillium discolor*) is a perfect example of a plant species endemic (unique) to the extreme southern Blue Ridge. This spicy-fragrant flower, which exudes a smell resembling that of Allspice, is most commonly found in open rich forests. Although this species is considered rare by regional standards, it is locally frequent on slopes in the lower reaches of Section IV and Lake Tugaloo. The Pale Yellow Trillium is distinguishable from most other Trillium species known in the Chattooga by the flower's sessile (direct) attachment above the leaves and upside-down, spoon-shaped petals.

As you roam through the woods during these spring months you may note that Trilliums tend to congregate in close groups usually immediately down slope of rotted stumps. Ants, who nest in downed trees and rotted wood, enjoy feasting on the fleshy appendage surrounding the Trillium seeds and so carry the berries back to their nests for nourishment. Once they've finished their meal the ever-tidy insects tend to discard the tiny seeds outside the nests-- a process which eventually results in the ant colony's personal "Trillium farm."

Although large colonies of Trillium are extensive in the coves and on the slopes of the Chattooga Basin; it is extremely important to leave their flowering beauty in the woods. Trilliums exhibit a relatively unique, involved and lengthy life cycle that in most instances takes up to ten years to complete. In other words, a fertile Trillium seed from last year's bloom won't push a true leaf above ground for the next two years, and even if the new plant is fortunate enough to experience ideal conditions, it will not flower until after the turn of this century!

So, wherever your spring adventures lead you in the Chattooga, heed the ancient Cherokee philosophy and enter the woods with a clear spirit because these mountain plants are "sentient beings...able to make themselves invisible to those unworthy [of their vision]."



*Trillium persistens*, a federally listed endangered species, occurs only in our area

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## ecosystem management continued from page 5...

the effects of natural disturbances, namely the recent tornado that swept through the watershed, have been ignored, and most of the timber that survived this event has been cut down and removed during the salvage operations.

One of the most important products of the Forest Service's Chattooga Project will be a "guide book". This book will summarize and integrate the methodology used and the information gained from the Chattooga Project, and will contain resource management interpretations. These interpretations will include: ecological land type descriptions, suitability for roads and trails, recreational opportunities, timber harvest opportunities and limitations, and opportunities for ecosystem restoration.

In the meantime many places in the watershed continue to be fragmented with new roads, overharvested by even-aged silvicultural techniques, and adversely affected by some management decisions that do not incorporate the ideals or perspectives of the Demonstration Project. Still needed is broad scale management that works to conserve native biodiversity, and to restore the integrity of ecosystem patterns and processes across the entire landscape.

## Interview continued from page 18...

would enforce their own erosion and sedimentation ordinances. There are rules in place to keep the individual from adversely affecting a stream, but it's difficult to enforce the rules when your own state agencies ignore them. So I would like to see the rules enforced along Stekoa Creek to stop erosion and sedimentation, and to look very strongly at those areas which are still yielding fecal coliforms to the stream.

BW: What is the greatest source of fecal coliform? Is it the cattle in the stream, or is it the sewage treatment plant, or is it some of the other sources around Clayton and Mountain City?

CT: Urban runoff carries fecal coliforms, and it carries other things, too. But as you urbanize, basically, you've got those problems. There are, undoubtedly, known septic tanks and even privies along the stream, high up in its upper reaches. I'm told that the sewage for the City of Clayton is not the major contributor anymore, like it used to be. I have not seen good data that tells me that in times of bypass, or in times of high water, it may not be. But one of the things that is very easily changed is that people can fence their pigs and cows in, away from the water with only limited access or a trough, so they could keep them from actually wading in the stream and defecating in the stream. That's probably one of the biggest helps you could do.

BW: But on a scale of one to ten, you've got the cows and you've got the people, where do they each rank, as far as the significance of their fecal coliform contribution to Stekoa Creek?

CT: I'd have to go back and look at the source of the fecal coliforms right now. I haven't looked at that data in months, and I'd have to look at it again. If you know it....

BW: The only thing that we know is that the pollution discharge elimination reported from the Clayton sewage treatment plant indicates that they are in extreme violation of their permit. The treatment plant is in violation of permit limits on flow, biochemical oxygen demand, and total suspended solids, as well as fecal coliforms. So, what we're concerned about is: who is going to be addressing that problem at the sewage treatment plant which never seems to get any better, year after year?

CT: I have personally proposed to them that I would give the time to design a tertiary wetland system, if they could find a piece of land suitable, and use the wetland as a tertiary polishing system. It's been done in other places. My consulting firm did the Regional Study for the southeastern U.S. on using wetlands as a way of treating sewage. We completed that study for the EPA about ten or twelve years ago. It's still used all over. The handbook

## Distinguished Scientists Call for Presidential Veto

Twelve scientists and natural resource experts have signed a letter to President Clinton requesting that he veto the Rescissions Bill and attached "emergency salvage rider." They state that, "The potential damage to our country's natural resources, the U.S. economy and the American political process far outweigh what benefits some interests may gain from the passage of this bill and attached 'Emergency Salvage Rider' ... We believe that a rigid mandate for such massive salvage operations on our public land overrides professional expertise with Congressional fiat, and precludes a more adaptable and economical idea of forest stewardship, one based on the model of natural processes."

The signators include among others:

**Dr. Charles Wharton of Clayton, Georgia, author of The Natural Environments of Georgia**

**Dr. Eugene Odum of the UGA Institute of Ecology**

**Dr. Judith Meyer, President of the Ecological Society of America**

**Dr. Reed Noss, editor of the journal Conservation Biology**

Contact the CRWC for a copy of the two page letter

## News Flash

As we go to the presses the Wednesday, May 17  
*Washington Post* headline reads "Clinton to Veto  
\$16 Billion Rescissions Package"

and information that we developed is still being used to design wetlands for wastewater disposal.

BW: It sounds like a good system, but whatever system we use to clean up the problem, what's the ballpark figure, how much that going to cost?

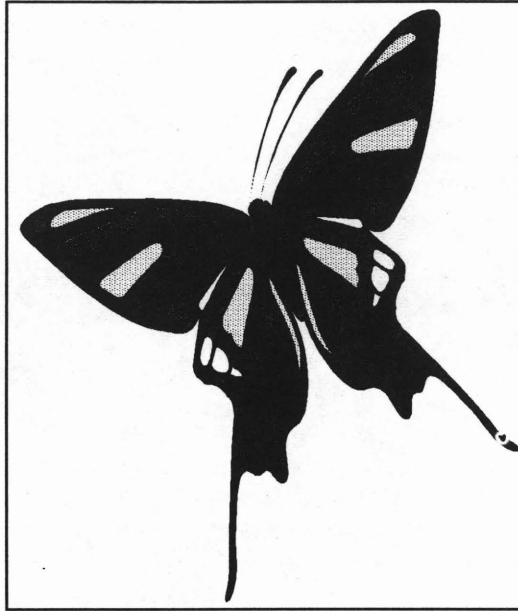
CT: Well, the wetlands is, by far, the cheapest. You can look at it on a per gallon basis. I'd have to look at the actual sizing, and I can get that for you and get back with you.

BW: As a person who has often been called as an expert witness, testifying about these types of issues, and whom I consider as qualified as any to render a judgment on this



## Director's Page continued from page 2...

watershed area as a living laboratory. The Forest Service could use this information to formulate habitat conservation alternatives which would be presented to the public during the Forest Plan revision process, thus providing options based on the best science available. The outfitters could offer the public educational opportunities by way of trips on the Chattooga River that combine a whitewater experience with learning about the values of native ecosystems. Researchers and experts could serve as instructors on these trips. Participants in some cases might be utilized to collect specimens, such as salamanders, for research. The most important benefits would be educating the



public by directly involving them with the resource, and fostering an understanding of how resource protection directly relates to their well-being. This way, we cultivate an enlightened citizenry, and one more willing to elect congress persons who reflect that ethic. These representatives may be more inclined to write laws that conserve and protect our environment.

Members of the CRWC are working to promote this concept. Citizens interested in supporting this idea should contact leaders in the Forest Service, the outfitting and guiding industry, or the academic community, and urge them to pursue this opportunity.

## Interview continued...

question, is the system you describe the best one for the situation in Clayton?

CT: Well, you know, I'd have to say the best system would be a lot of small disseminated systems going somewhere to ponds, and never going to a river or creek. We have to begin by considering where we are now, though, which is a collection system that all ends up down on the banks of Stekoa Creek. From an infrastructure standpoint it's one of those commitments you make that is hard to ever go back on. So, what are the options now? You can put in large engineered systems—we've engineered this one to this point—and we have massive occasional violations and massive ongoing violations of some things. Is it better to put in those kind of structures that are more flexible and provide a buffer to man's imperfect technical ability, or is it better to add technology on top of technology and cost after cost? About the only way you can afford to do it right for a small community is probably large tertiary treatment by wetlands. If you go out and involve the national engineering firm to come build them, you're going to spend a lot of money. But, on the other hand, the technology is available, the county probably has its own equipment that can be used, and depending on whether the land is donated or not, you could do it very cheaply and locally.

BW: Has this type of proposal been made to the County Commissioners of Rabun County?

CT: It's come in sideways at least, yes; it's been discussed, and it is being discussed. I don't know that it's ever been publicly discussed as an agenda item. I haven't gone out and priced it and stuck it out in front of them; no one has asked me to.

BW: Well, that's something that we would be very interested in. Along those lines, the last question is: we're looking for partners in trying to promote good stewardship in the Chattooga River watershed. How do you think we can work with the outfitters? What common ground is there, and what issues can we work on together?

CT: The operators have put together funds, and we have funded some educational materials. We have tried to work with the Forest Service as much as possible in these areas. Anyone of honest goodwill who comes to the outfitters with a project that would improve the quality of the river, improve the economic standing of the citizens of the area without damaging the river corridor - I think the outfitters would look very strongly at trying to be involved, to give tacit support and perhaps financial support (we have limited resources). We do put together a fund and we are interested in those issues. And they're very much the same issues, I would think, of almost any conservation group interested in the Chattooga's health.

BW: Well, we worked together well in the past on some issues, as you mentioned earlier, and we've worked on things like stopping the over development around the Bull Sluice area, and we're of like mind on a lot of the types of timber harvesting that we advocate. I think this is a good place to start. We really appreciate you taking the time to interview with us, and we hope we can develop some of these ideas and work more closely with the outfitters in the future.

CT: I have thoroughly enjoyed it.



## ***Chattooga River Watershed Coalition***

### ***Member Organizations***

***Georgia Forest Watch***  
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***Wilderness Society,  
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***Association of Forest Service  
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***South Carolina Forest Watch***  
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or (404) 458-3389 (home)

***Sierra Club, North Carolina Chapter***  
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### ***Endorsing Organizations***

***Foothills Canoe Club  
Atlanta Whitewater Club  
Georgia Canoeing Association  
Higgins Hardwood Gear  
A.F. Clewell, Inc.  
Atlanta Audubon Society  
National Wildlife Federation***

***Georgia Botanical Society  
Georgia Ornithological Society  
The Beamery  
Columbia Audubon Society  
The Georgia Conservancy  
Southern Environmental Law  
Center  
Dagger, Inc.***

***Georgia Environmental  
Organization, Inc.  
Timber Framers Guild of North  
America  
Carolina Bird Club  
Government Accountability Project  
Turpin's Custom Sawmill***

### **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. We're a non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Individual: \$7.00 ☐      Group: \$14.00 ☐      Sustaining: \$45.00 ☐      Donation: ☐

**Thank You!**

# Chattooga River Watershed Coalition

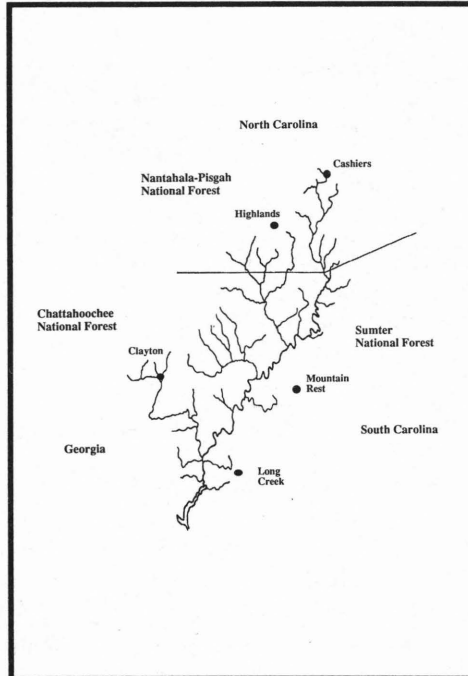
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## Our Purpose:

"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 and Volunteers  
Turner Foundation, Inc.  
The Moriah Fund  
Merck Family Fund  
Lyndhurst Foundation  
Patagonia, Inc.  
Frances Close Hart  
South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association



## 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

Chattooga River Watershed Coalition  
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