

BRMTU Chapter Meeting - Minutes of the Meeting

May 10, 2025

Welcome New Members and Visitors

Jim Shifford, Sarasota Member of TU, has cabin near here

Ted Henry - New Member, Mountain Town Creek, lives in Peachtree City

Membership:

- 338 members
- Two business members
- 29 Family members
- 15 new members from Trout Fest

Trout Camp:

We have a candidate we are sponsoring

Also sponsoring a second candidate

Conservation:

No report given.

TVA:

It is widely rumored and was discussed that there's a plan by the TVA to drop the water level on Lake Blue Ridge 8 feet for several years starting next year (2026) to allow for repair work to be accomplished on the spillway. This lowering of the water level will cause downstream tailwater temperatures of the Toccoa River to rise if water is taken from lake depths that contain higher temperature water than before. Higher water temperatures are detrimental to the health of trout in the Toccoa River Tailwater.

The last time the TVA accomplished major repair work on the dam that affected the downstream water temperatures by taking water from higher temperature climes, there was a major fish kill in the Tailwater and to date, fish quantity levels have not fully recovered from that event.

Education:

Trout in the Classroom - Elementary School - already done - released 89. Lost power and 1/2 of the trout.

Middle School Trout in the Classroom Release planned for May 15, Thursday, at Tammen Park; time 1 PM

Calendar Review and Announcements

- May 14th Hatchery Special Kids Event 8 AM to Noon, bring rag, nips/pliers and hat.
- May 15th Trout In the Classroom Release - Tammen Park, time TBA
- June 2-8, GA Trout Camp
- June 6 Senior Fishing Day at the Hatchery
- June 7 Kids Fishing Day at the Hatchery
- June 7 Kids Fishing Rodeo at Lake Winfield Scott - USFS and BRMTU (provides food)
- June 21 GA TU Council Meeting - Rome - Coosa Valley

Fishing Reports

South Holston was a big success except for issues with the water supply to the South Holston River - had to fish the Watauga River.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Mailman

*TroutFest - thumbnail, first glance at the numbers

- expenses higher to due to parking and insurance in GA,
- 3000 estimated attendance
- there are more expenses and checks incoming
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CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORT

- \$89K was our bank balance in April
- \$132K bank balance in May
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Volunteer Hours

- 2515 hours Last year 1505 hours

President's Report:

Sam Miller has stepped down as President and Board Member due to personal reasons.

Nominations and Election of Officers

President - Open

Vice President - Paul Carlson

Treasurer - Pail Mailman

Secretary - Jim Reich

Committee Chairs

Membership - John Jenkins

Education - Max White

Conservation and Advocacy - Carl Riggs

State of the Hatchery / US Congressional Exchange

The Hatchery will be reducing staff from 4 to 2 and it will be remotely managed from Tennessee

Joe Helseth (sp) is the new local Hatchery Mgr from Wyoming.

At the National Chattahoochee Hatchery Veterans event, two aides from US Congressional offices, attended and we shared with them the importance of the hatchery and its positive impact on the local economy and real estate values. Especially for the Trout Capital of Georgia!

Also, perhaps the number one conservation issue is the impact that all the new construction post Covid, has had on the runoff of sediment, chems , fertilizer etc into the local cold water resources. Clear cutting riverbanks does not provide for a riparian buffer/barrier/filter for local waterways.

We also felt like local lack of enforcement of a 50 foot barrier of plant life on the rivers and creeks in our counties was adversely impacting our water quality.

BR Trout & Outdoor Adventure Festival - Report

- Bob Borgwat will return to next meeting to provide a more detailed report

Film Fest was a blast, well received.

TroutFest was really fun as well.

Turnout to the event was estimated at 2200, down an estimated 800 attendees from last year.

We suffered at the gate due to :

1. TF2026 was held one Week after many Spring Breaks
2. Easter this year was on a date that moved Bear on the Square to a date that competed with TF2026.
3. Cabin rentals only upticked slightly.

Look at date coordination next year with competing events.

Curtis Switch Project

We are trying to line up with the County commissioners and get something done.

County is already engaged in renovations to Tammen and Horseshoe Bend Parks.

We have 8 government entities to coordinate with on what we want to do.

Christie Gribble, Chamber of Commerce, is helping guide us through coordinating with the County.

Deanna Thompson - TVA Contact

Next Meeting - June 10th at Blue Jeans Pizza.