

Official Announcement: The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Lake Glenville will be Saturday August 7, 2010, at 9am at the Glenville CDC.



Important Dates:

See the FLG web site or the Spring newsletter for dates.

Friends of Lake Glenville

Winter 2010

www.friendsoflakeglenville.com

Howard M. Austin, Editor

Water Sonde

Don Henson

Motivated by a concern for diminishing clarity of water in Lake Glenville, in 2003 the Friends of Lake Glenville Board committed modest funding to purchase of scientific equipment for collection and analyses of water samples for turbidity and pH (acidity) of lake water. More than 1400 samples have been collected and analyzed using these equipments. Together with data from weather observations at the Highlands Biological Station and Toxaway Mountain, and lake level data provided by Duke Energy, they have fueled the series of water quality reports published in the *FLG Newsletter* since 2005. These observations have provided new information about the problems of the lake, but a limit has pretty much been reached as to the amount of new understanding that can be gained with these measurements alone. The water quality article in this issue, for instance, instead invoked data from measurements made by NCDENR Division of Water Quality (DWQ) in 2004 and 1999. The DWQ measurements, while extensive when they occur, are infrequent; currently at five-year intervals.



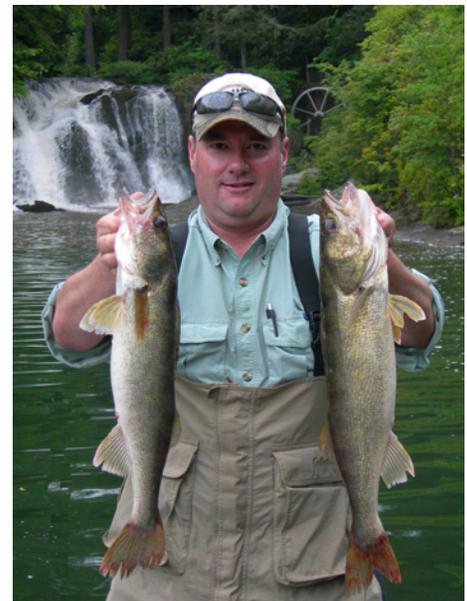
Those Wily Walleyes

Marty Jones

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The sun slides slowly beneath the ridgeline as the crackling campfire begins to reveal red, glowing embers beneath dancing flames. Its warmth is welcome in the cool fall air, and soon the coals will be hot enough to bring bacon fat to perfect frying temperature. Camped beside a pristine lake, on the dinner menu is freshly caught walleye. The fillets will soon be turning golden brown in the mess kit pan; a culinary delight experienced only by a privileged few. Anyone who has tasted fresh walleye can attest to the fact that they are indeed among the tastiest fish that swims, fresh or saltwater.

Many may think that this sort of outing may only be experienced in the far north woods of Canada, but the fact is, Cashiers anglers have great walleye fishing in their back yard. The scenery and shore lunches can rival any found in the far north.



Greetings from the President

Howard M. Austin

Greetings from the President! As this is written in late February 2010, many roads and driveways around the lake are still covered with snow and ice and difficult to negotiate. The winter of 2009-2010 will indeed be one to remember.

Two significant events have occurred since “the season” ended last fall. After several false starts, the first major survey of both FLG members and non-member lake and near-lake property owners was undertaken this fall. Over 1600 surveys were mailed out to a statistically significant sample and over 180 were returned. This first survey since the mid 90’s will help guide the FLG Board as they try and decide where to put resources, what activities the members want, and what it would take to increase the membership. Look forward to a summary in the Spring 2010 newsletter after the Board reviews it at their upcoming Winter Retreat.

The second event of significance was a refusal of the United States Court of Appeals to agree with Jackson County and the Friends of Lake Glenville in their ongoing efforts to influence the conditions of the Duke Power relicensing process that includes Lake Glenville. The first and most public visible result of that decision is the removal of the powerhouse and dam in Dillsboro that has been featured in the local newspapers since the New Year. How the FLG will respond and what choices it has will also be deliberated at the Retreat.

After many years of good service, the web site initially set up by long time member Keith Dixon has been redone to be easier to use and especially easier to update. During the late winter and early spring, more pages will be added to make it the “go to” place to see what is happening with the FLG and what is going to happen on the lake. Along with that change is a new email address “flg@friendsoflakeglenville.com” that will help remind all who communicate with us who we are. The old Yahoo email address will be phased out sometime this season.

On the next to last page is a list of the current Board members and how to contact them. Please email or call any or all of us if you have ideas for what we should be doing, programs or speakers we might have at breakfasts, or especially if you want to help with one of our initiatives, especially the various aspects of the water quality program, the heart of our motto to “Preserve and Protect” Lake Glenville. Our water quality “gurus”, Doug Odell and Don Henson, have done stalwart duty for years and would love to have both lay helpers as well as scientifically qualified understudies so that the programs they have begun and in some cases carried on almost single handedly can continue into the future.

Let’s hope spring comes soon and we can again enjoy the outdoors and the wonderful lake we all treasure.

See you on the lake! Howard



Winter photos courtesy of local resident and photographer Barbara Short



Advent of the Sonde continued from page one

Don Henson

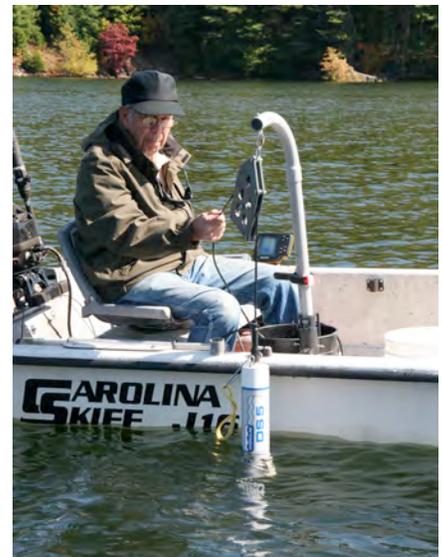
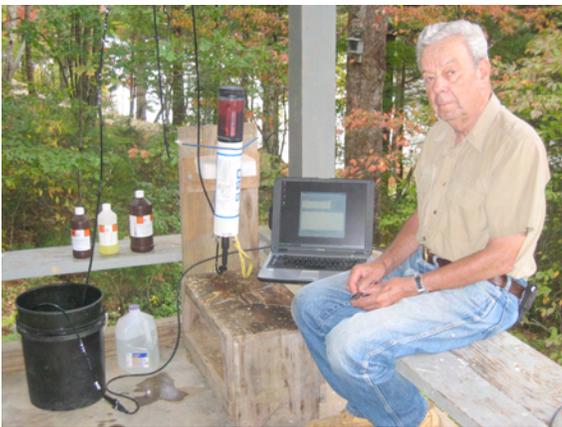
In 2009 the Board made a major commitment of funds for purchase of a state of the art electronic multi-parameter profiling system, a Hydrolab DS 5 data sonde (sonde: originally French for sounding line, now a device for measurements difficult of access) With the previous equipment we measured temperature, turbidity, and pH as functions of depth. Temperature and turbidity measurements were very successful, but pH measurements turned out to be difficult because of the low ionic strength (softness) of lake water. The DS 5 sonde will measure these parameters plus dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, and electrical conductivity more accurately and at greater vertical resolution. The less time-consuming operation will enable more frequent observations as well. I anticipate making more than 400 measurements of each variable per year.

An immediate revelation obtained with the new system is that in the fall of 2009 the bottom half of Lake Glenville is in fact a “dead zone”, devoid of oxygen essential to all but bacterial life forms. This disaster may be novel, or it may occur regularly or intermittently. It was predicted (or conjectured?) to occur in the water quality article written for this issue while purchase of the DS 5 system was still in discussion, but has never before been observed or reported. I expect that the anoxic condition will be relieved as seasonal cooling removes the thermocline, allowing reoxygenation from the atmosphere. Additional measurements are planned to confirm this hypothesis.

Measurements of chlorophyll will help us to distinguish between autogenous and exogenous causes of turbidity and oxygen depletion in the lake. pH is important due to the threat of acid rain caused by coal combustion at power plants in Tennessee and the low buffering capacity of our lake water, as well as the fact that it relates to biological generation and decomposition of organic matter within the lake. Our best arguments for management policies relating to preserving and improving water quality will be based on accurate data and understanding of lake processes.

Consideration is being given to establishing a new page in the FLG website, to be called Lake Glenville Diagnostic Bulletin. It would make sonde-derived information about the status of temperature, turbidity and dissolved oxygen in the lake available to members and other interested parties.

Purchase of the DS 5 system is a major undertaking for Friends of Lake Glenville. It was made possible by generous contributions from members including the Mountaintop Golf & Lake Club, the Cassidy Family Foundation, and the Austin Family, and general funds of the Friends of Lake Glenville. Further contributions to the enterprise are welcome.



Top left: Don Henson in his “lab” (side porch) downloading data from the sonde

Top middle: Water sonde & controller, with Coke bottle for scale

Top right & bottom left: Don Henson on Lake Glenville taking measurements with the sonde

Those Wily Walleyes

Continued from page one

Marty Jones

Walleye are native to the Tennessee River basin and its tributaries, which includes the east and west forks of the Tuckaseegee River. Their numbers dwindled in the early 20th century, but successful stocking, which began in some lakes as early as the 1960's, now make for excellent walleye fishing within easy driving distance from Cashiers. Wolf Lake, Bear Lake, Lake Glenville, Fontana Lake, as well as several lakes in North Georgia have good populations of walleye.

Walleye are not an easy fish to catch. They are notoriously line shy and extremely picky. There are times when something as subtle as using the correct knot can mean the difference between catching marble eyes, or being skunked. They are opportunistic, and will key on the easiest to catch, most available forage whether it's in one foot of water, or a hundred. They will on some days exhibit characteristics of a bass, and hide in fallen timber waiting to ambush prey, or may roam open water for weeks, like a landlocked trout or salmon, targeting pelagic forage such as opossum shrimp, gizzard shad or blueback herring. The challenge of finding and catching these elusive fish is what makes it so much fun.

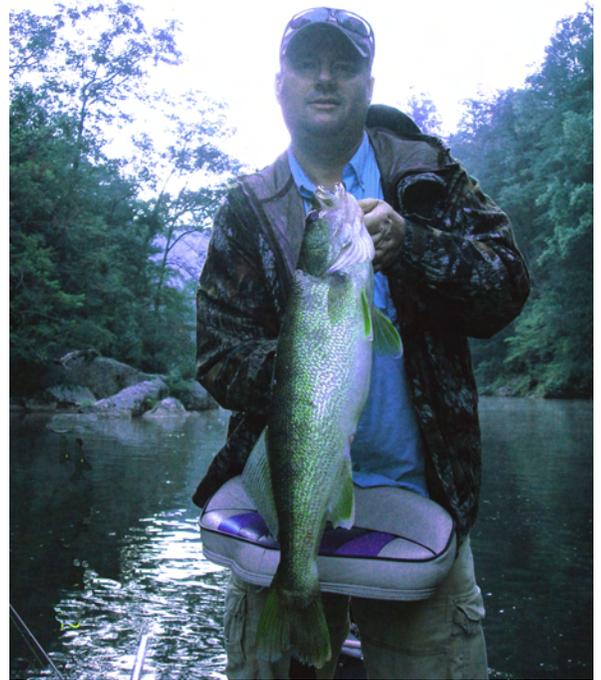
Also enticing to the angler is the fact that walleye can grow large, with the current world record being 25 pounds. The North Carolina state record is over 13 lbs, caught from Lake Chatuge. Most 'eyes found in our area will average 15 to 18 inches, although 4 to 6 pound fish are not uncommon. Any lake in this area that has walleyes, however, will certainly have fish over 8, or even ten pounds.

Many lures will catch walleye, but the best all around mountain walleye baits are chartreuse twister tails on jig heads, number 11 silver and black Rapalas, 300 Bandit crankbaits, and number 5 crawfish colored Shadraps. Trolling is often a good technique, and one should always fish for walleyes in low light conditions around rocky points, water flowing into a lake, banks with rip rap, and anywhere there are wind currents.

If one desires the services of an area guide, 153 Charters owned and operated by Capt. James McManus of Sylva offers guided trips for walleye on area lakes. He has chased walleyes in this area for 30 years and is very proficient and finding and catching these tasty fish. He can be reached by phone at 828-421-8125, or by email at 153charters@gmail.com.

For a unique, and wonderful Cashiers Outside experience, try walleye fishing in one of the many area mountain lakes. The scenery is spectacular, and the fishing is great. Be sure to put a few on ice, as a walleye fishing trip isn't complete without a sizzling pan.

Good luck, tight lines and God bless.



SPONSORS 2009

Many thanks to our Sponsors for 2009. Your donations help make programs possible that could otherwise not be done simply with regular dues. If you have not been a Sponsor in the past, please consider it when you send in your 2010 dues.

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FIRST CLASS

Friends of Lake Glenville

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On the web: www.friendsoflakeglenville.com