

*Huntin' and Killin':***Looking Glass Creek provides relief for dog days**

by Zach Browning
Sports Editor

The dog days of summer are here and that means uneventful days for fisherman. It's that awkward time of year, right at the end of summer and right before the fall spawn.

For those who fish stocked streams, August is the end of the stocking schedule and the crowds haven't subsided as of yet. So to find some solitude, I venture far into the forest in search of a different kind of game, the native trout.

On this particular outing I found myself far into the headwaters of Looking Glass Creek. From a small pullover I basically had to repel down a steep embankment before I reached the stream below. What I found when I reached the bottom made the descent, and ultimately the climb back up, worth every ounce of sweat.

The first and perhaps largest pool was a sight to behold; in the gin-clear water I could



Browning catches a small one at Looking Glass Creek

see various Rainbows and browns of decent size dart back and forth in the current. My first cast caught a small brookie—in fact every fish I caught that day was on the small side.

It was almost like I couldn't get anything bigger than an inch or two to bite, even though I could clearly see that they were there. I couldn't be disappointed though, just seeing natives that looked to be in the 8-10 inch range was enough to make me a happy

man.

Another thing that astounded me was the numbers. In the first hole I think I counted close twenty fish of all sizes. Further upstream I ran into the same situation: another hole, but alas—no whopper to make my day.

After an afternoon of trying to fool the smartest fish in the streams, I decided to call it quits. All in all, I caught three small natives, lost four flies, almost went for a swim over a waterfall, and rolled

down a hill which turned out to be covered in poison ivy. It was a good day, and I plan on doing it again very soon.

Fishing for natives may not produce huge fish, or many of them for that matter, but it's the simple thrill of the hunt that keeps me going. Tricking a native born fish into taking a well-presented fly isn't the easiest thing to do.

I want to interject now and say that I recommend using barbless hooks and practicing catch-and-release. These are steps we sportsman can take to ensure plenty of fish to catch on another day.

By seeking-out native waters, it is possible to test your skill as a fly fisherman while avoiding the crowded hatchery-supported areas.

So next time you get a chance, drive up into Pisgah National Forest and try your hand at some of the native trout that fill our beautiful streams. Take it easy and I'll see ya' on the river.

Sports Calendar

September 2

Men's Soccer vs Francis Marion University, 4:00 p.m.
Football at Shorter College, 2:00 p.m.

September 3

Men's Soccer vs Belmont Abbey College, 4:00 p.m.
Women's Soccer vs Belmont Abbey College, 2:00 p.m.

September 5

Volleyball at Southern Wesleyan College, 7:00 p.m.

September 8

Volleyball vs Covenant College, 6:30 p.m.

September 9

Football vs Mars Hill College, 7:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer vs Mars Hill College, 2:00 p.m.

Volleyball vs Bryan College and Brewton-Parker College, 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

September 13

Volleyball vs Lander University, 7:00 p.m.

Men's Soccer vs Milligan College, 2:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer vs Milligan College, 4:00 p.m.

September 16

Volleyball at Mars Hill College, 11:00 a.m.

Football at Newberry College, 7:00 p.m.

The Clarion

needs

SPORTS REPORTERS

We meet Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in
MG 138