Huntin' & Killin' with Zach **Delayed Harvest returns to catch and release**

By Zach Browning Sports Editor

It's that time of year again: time for all waters listed as Delayed Harvest by the Wildlife Resources Commission to return to catch and release. This means that these waters will receive ample stocking of Brook, Brown, and Rainbow trout.

From the first day in October to the first Saturday in June, Delayed Harvest streams are regulated as catch and release with the use of a single hook artificial lure only. Starting the first Saturday in June, you are allowed to keep up to 7 fish per day, and there are no lure restrictions.

There are 14 streams in the state that fall under this unique regulation. Brevard College students are fortunate in that two of these are within a twenty minute drive from campus.

The East Fork River is located in Rosman, and the North Fork of



Fish from the East Fork River Photo by Zach Browning

the Mills River is located in, you guessed it-Mills River. Both are excellent rivers in their own right; my personal favorite, however, is the East Fork.

The East Fork is a bit wider than the Mills and boasts several waterfalls along its path. There are several deep holes that hide monster trout, and it's fairly easy to

access. Since it is so easily accessible, I recommend that you try and go during the week as weekends tend to get crowded with people from out of state.

The Mills River is narrower than the East Fork, but if you can tighten your casting or dead drift your fly you should be alright. This river is also shallower, so looking for water pockets behind rocks and along banks is essential. This river, I've noticed, gets more pressure than the other. Again, if you want to have an enjoyable day on the river, I recommend going during the week. The portion of the river below the dam is an excellent spot. It's tight and the water moves fast, but very few people fish there, so just keep that in mind.

The great thing about Delayed Harvest streams is that there is ample opportunity to catch lots of fish; I've had days where I've counted as many as 60. These streams also serve as excellent classrooms for the novice fly angler. They are the perfect place for

someone with little to no experience to come and perfect their technique, and maybe land a big one. This also tends to boost people's confidence, bringing them back year after year.

So dust off that fly rod and get out there next week-who knows, you might get lucky and hook into a monster. Just make sure that you only leave with pictures, and that you aren't too rough with the fish while releasing them. Good luck and good fishing.



Zach pulling fish from the East Fork

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