

## Guide's Corner- Chris Scalley



The Chattahoochee River tail water below Buford Dam is unique in that our brown trout spawn is later than most trout fisheries. A combination of a mild climate and shortened photo period causes our brown trout to actively spawn from late Fall around mid October through early Winter into mid January. Recent brown trout studies conducted by GA DNR biologist Patrick O'Rourke show that despite the fact that the State entirely quit stocking browns in 2003 there are very high population densities throughout the river(3,000 browns per mile) With 38miles of river between Buford and Morgan Falls Dams that is a lot of brown trout! Even though we generally catch 80% rainbows in this stretch of river during stocking season the tables will turn to 70% browns caught when we get into October. I think this catch ratio changes due to the aggressive spawning behavior triggered by shorter days and cooler weather but also the fact that DNR stops stocking on Labor Day in September. As the eternal optimist I will have to say that the lack of fishing pressure caused by the Federal Government shut-down in October should result into a very productive Fall/Winter Brown-Blitz if these politicians in DC can finally get it together!

Tight Lines!  
Chris Scalley  
River Through Atlanta