



Founding Director of Trout Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited North Carolina and Founding Trustee of NC Nature Conservancy



Stream Blazer Phil H. Bracewell, Sr. 1918-2011

South Toe River, Hickory, North Carolina

Few have given more time and energy to conservation in the Southern Appalachians. His activism extended to a national level from the early 1950s until 2001. Phil was appointed by Governor Jim Martin as the Sedimentation

Control Commissioner and later served on the Public Advisory Council for Duke Power's Energy Commission.

Phil became active in the Catawba County Wildlife Club and a life-long member of the NC Wildlife Federation in the early 1950s, where he served as the Northwestern President and served a term as the NCWF President.

He served as a NC national delegate on the National Affairs Committee for sixteen years. In 1974, he was awarded the Conservationist of the Year and in 1977, he was inducted into the North Carolina Wildlife Hall of Fame.

In 1990, he became the founding trustee for the Catawba County Wildlife Education Committee, where he combed through hundreds of applicants seeking four year degrees in Marine Biology for twenty-two years, as well as the North Carolina Wildlife Education Committee.

In 1964, Phil became one of the eight founding fathers of the initial TU chapters in North Carolina, and founded the Northwestern Chapter. NWTU membership dwindled but was revitalized in 1986 through a membership drive – the chapter was awarded the TU National Gold Trout Award, the highest recognition from TU National.

The chapter demonstrated extraordinary fund raising ability, leading the nation for over 10 years and setting the record for Highest Net Dollar TU Banquet. "Phil Bracewell led the way for the NWTU Chapter to become one of the

most successful Trout Unlimited chapters in the nation,” said Steve Mull, past NWTU president.

As a lifelong member of Trout Unlimited, Phil was a National Director for over 16 years, Chairman of the Awards Committee for 14 years. In 1984, he was awarded a special Distinguished Service Award from TU National.



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The Trout Unlimited / Philip H. Bracewell, Sr. Conservation Education Endowment Fund

(An Affiliate Fund of the NC Community Foundation)

Bryant Kirkland, a former NWTU president said, “This endowment honors the distinguished leadership and lifelong accomplishments of Phil.”

“In recognition of the distinguished leadership and lifelong accomplishments of our beloved friend and mentor, the Northwestern Chapter of Trout Unlimited (NWTU) has established the Trout Unlimited / Philip H. Bracewell, Sr. Conservation Education Endowment Fund.”

The fund will honor the memory of Phil H. Bracewell, Sr. through conservation education, advocacy and cooperative fund raising. The education fund will be made available to promote, enhance and empower the process of youth of the Greater Hickory Metro Area and western North Carolina.

*Prophets of nature, we will the to speak,
A lasting inspiration, sanctified by reason, Blest by faith.
What we have loved, others will love,
And we will teach them how,
The mind of man becomes more beautiful than the earth on
which he dwells.— William Wordsworth*



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