



Founder of Armstrong Fly Casters, Founder of Lake Tahoma Club and a Founding Director of Trout Unlimited



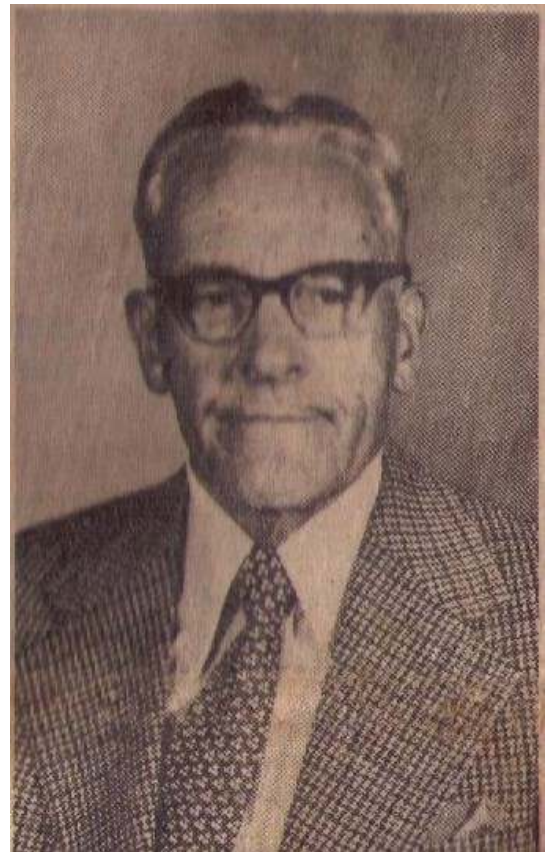
Stream Blazer

Cato Holler

1903-2001

Armstrong Creek, Marion, North Carolina

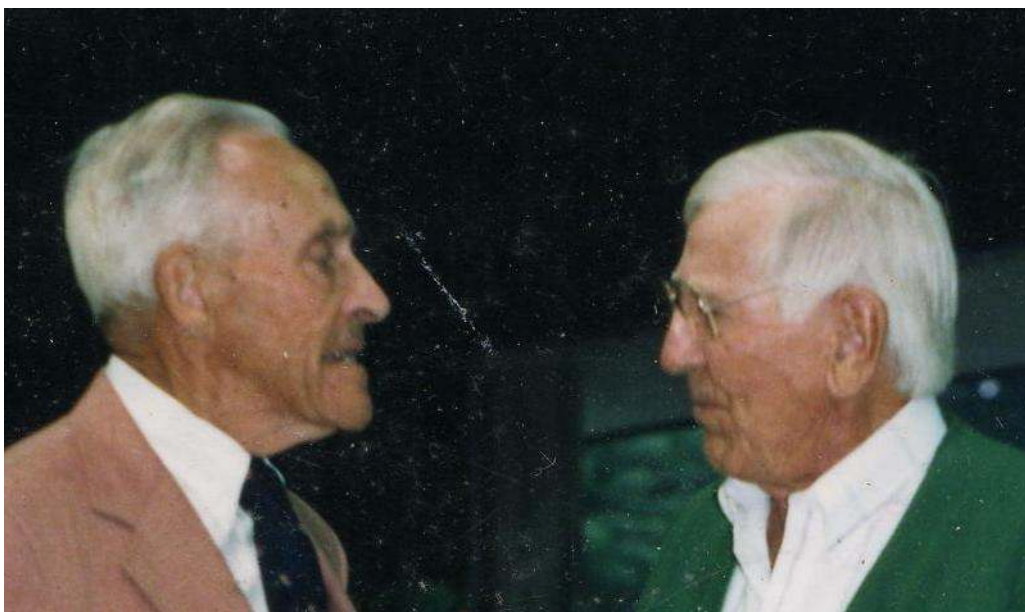
Cato Holler from Marion was well known for his fly the “Infallible” and for his early advocacy of stream management. He applied his caring methods of stream management to Armstrong Creek, his privately owned fly fishing club. Cato and his close friend Walker Blanton were also founders of the Lake Tahoma Club. Cato was also a close friend of Alex Shenck, a member of the Cane River Club and owner of several trout streams in the northwestern part of North Carolina as well as national figures like Ernie Schwiebert, Lee Wulff and Dan Bailey.



The Beginnings of Trout Unlimited

On a cloudy day in June 1959, a group of Michigan trout fisherman deeply concerned about loss of trout habitat, stream pollution and over-fishing of their prime streams, met in the summer home of George A. Griffith on the banks of the famed Au Sable River. When the group emerged several hours later, Trout Unlimited was born.

Although Trout Unlimited was only a fledgling conservation group and a Michigan corporation, news of it spread rapidly among the trout and salmon fishing fraternity. Their meetings in the early years were on home ground, but in September 1963, Trout Unlimited ventured beyond Michigan and convened an annual meeting at Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



Cato Hollar and George Griffith together again in 1989 at the TU National Convention in Asheville, North Carolina



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A Cato Story By Walker Blanton, Jr.

Cato and my dad, Cy Blanton were camping. Cato was scrambling eggs in a frying pan over a fire, using a small plastic spoon. Cato turned aside to do something but when he returned to cooking he couldn't find the spoon. When breakfast was ready my dad took a bite of the eggs. "Cato I think I found your spoon."

– Walker Blanton, Jr.

Note: Written at the request of Chris Holler, Cato's grandson who owns and operates Cato's Armstrong Fly Casters Club, Marion, North Carolina.



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