



TIGHT LINES April 2012 Newsletter of the Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited

Editor – Doug Adams edadams1@windstream.net

Visit the Rabun TU website: <http://rabuntu.org/site/>

"Never throw a long line when a short one will serve your purpose." Richard Penn

RABUN TU CHAPTER'S MEETING PLACE

RE/MAX Office, Clayton, GA

US 441S, just south of MAMA G's restaurant

3rd Tuesday of the Month 6:30 pm – Social & Yarn Spinning 7:00 pm – Program & Meeting

(You don't have to believe the yarns - - if you don't want to)

At every regular chapter meeting there will be a raffle for fishing or camping items to help pay the cost of mailing the newsletter to members without E-mail.

Bring an item to donate and a dollar or two for raffle tickets - you might win something.

"I used to like fishing because I thought it had some larger significance. Now I like fishing because it's the one thing I can think of that probably doesn't." John Gierach

"FORWARD CASTING" Important Dates See you there!

Apr 10 (Tues) Free Fly Tying Session, 6 PM at Kountry Vittles

Apr 14 (Sat) Workday – for BtB, [Volunteers needed](#) for Sat morning workday with Jim Kidd, the DNR & FS leading work on North Fork Moccasin Creek w/C-NTUC & SRTUC & Boy Scouts. Recently during one of the heavy rain events, a portion of the Wildcat Creek Road sloughed off. That portion of road is still passable, but dangerous for public travel. Therefore the FS has closed the gate on the Wildcat Creek Road for public safety. We will still be able to conduct the work day because FS and DNR personnel will meet us at the gate that morning, let us in, then shut the gate behind us while we work on the stream. After the work session and lunch (about 2 PM) they will let us out. The FS has asked that no camping be inside the gate. We will all need to meet and travel into and out of the work site in one group at the same time. We can leave early in case of emergencies only, with FS or DNR escort. Bring all the supplies you need to stay in there during the day. **In summary: The Moccasin Creek Work Day will be a one day event, no camping allowed. We will meet at the gate on the Wildcat Creek Road at 0800 on Saturday, April 14. Rabun TU will provide lunch.**

Apr 13 & 14 (Fri & Sat) TU SE Regional Rally Asheville, Workshops & Seminars

Apr 17 (Tues) Chapter Meeting 6:30 PM, RE/MAX Office Program: "Dark-Thirty 101" Many anglers have heard of dark-thirty and may even know a trick or two on catching fish at dark. But nobody does it better than our own addicted Rabunite, Pat Hopton.

Apr 21 (Sat) Project Healing Waters for Wounded Warriors [Volunteers needed](#), 8 AM at Paces Mill, East Palisades Park on the "Hooch", details [HERE](#)

Apr 24 (Tues) BOD Meeting, 6:30 PM, Location - Chamber of Commerce office

Apr 28 (Sat) SE Region FFF Conclave at Unicoi S.P.

May 4 (Fri) Mentoring RCMS kids, 2-3 PM fishing at Rec Dept pond [Volunteers needed](#).

May 5 (Sat) High Country Boil Fundraiser; BRMTUC 5:30 PM, Details [HERE](#) on pg. 11.

May 9 – 13 (Wed-Sun) Spring Camping & Fishing Outing; the Upper Chattooga backcountry with camping at USFS Cherry Hill (SC) Campground. Be sure to tell Elizabeth Perry when you will be there eperry04@gmail.com 828-200-9774 **WAahWHOO!**

May 11 (Fri) Mentoring RCMS kids, 2-3 PM fishing at Rec Dept pond [Volunteers needed](#).

May 14 (Mon) Annual Spring Family Cookout; 4 PM, at Indian Lake, with Boy &/or Girl Scout Troops as our guests. [Volunteers needed to mentor the Scouts](#).

May 19 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting, 9 AM, at FRTUC

May 22 (Tues) BOD Meeting, Maybe Streamside TBD

May 26 (Sat) Betty Creek In-Stream Trimming/Clean-up [Volunteers needed](#), 9 AM in preparation for GA Trout Camp

2012 GA Trout Camp; June 10th – 15th

FLY OF THE MONTH

by Terry Rivers



LIGHT CAHILL

THESE ARE TIED UP IN GINGER OR CREAM. WE TIED SOME OF THESE AT OUR MARCH FLY TYING SESSIONS AT KOUNTRY VITTLES. PLEASE JOIN US 2ND TUESDAY EVERY MONTH. IF THERE IS A FLY YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN, MAYBE THAT WILL BE THE FLY WE WILL TIE FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH. "SEE YA ON THE RIVER".

HOOK: DRY FLY HOOK 12/16
TAIL: CREAM OR GINGER HACKLE FIBERS
BODY: CREAM OR GINGER DUBBING
WINGS: LEMON WOOD DUCK FIBERS
THORAX: PALMERED CREAM OR GINGER HACKLE

"Fishing - - It cultivates reverence for wild things and beautiful places. It reminds us that time needs occasionally to be squandered." From *The River Home* by Jerry Dennis

Find us on  Click <http://www.facebook.com/rabuntu>

April Hatches

The Bugs	Time of Month	Time of Day	Suggested Flies
None at all	All Month	All Day	Dredging Nymphs: 12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, PT
Quill Gordon Mayfly	Early	L am to M pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12-14 Quill Gordon Nymph
Blue Quill Mayfly	Early	L am to M pm	16-18 Blue Quill, BWO, or Blue Dun 16-18 Prince or Pheasant Tail
Small Dun Caddis (Important)	All Month	L am to M pm L pm to dark	16-18 Gray Elk Hair or Deer Hair Caddis 16-18 Gray Caddis Pupa
Hendrickson Mayfly	All Month	L am to M pm	12-14 Hendrickson or Adams Parachute
March Brown Mayfly (Important)	All Month	L am to M pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 March Brown Nymph, Dark Hare's Ear, or Pheasant Tail
Cream Caddis (Very important)	All Month	M day to L pm	12-14 Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Yellow Stonefly	Late	E to L am L pm to dark	14-16 Yellow Stimulator or Elk Hair Caddis (Yellow) 14-16 Yellow Stone Nymph
Light Cahill Mayfly (Important)	Late	E to L pm	12-14 Light Cahill 12-14 Light Cahill Nymph
Speckled Gray Caddis	Late	M to L pm	12-14 Dark Elk Hair or Deer Hair Caddis 12-14 Dun & Yel/Brn Caddis Pupa
Midges	All Month	All Day	18-22 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa

To view a Hatch Chart for other months, click [Hatch Chart](#)

Webpage-of-the Month: http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20120317/OUTDOORS/303170033?fb_comment_id=fbc_10150723506251131_22567860_10150725144896131
Chattooga ruling draws anger

Rabun TU's Award Winning website <http://rabuntu.org/site/>

Please send comments & suggestions to Pat Hopton, Website Project Manager, scotts_creek58@yahoo.com

Rabun TU Site Designed by [Allison O. Adams, Editorial and Multimedia Services](#)

From: Gardner, Jeff - FS [mailto:jeffgardner@fs.fed.us] **Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 11:37 AM

Subject: Road System Study on the Chattahoochee National Forest

Dear Forest Stakeholder:

The USDA Forest Service is beginning a study of the road system on the Chattahoochee National Forest, and we want to know which national forest roads are important to visitors and why. Anyone may provide comments now through April 13.

The three Ranger Districts that make up the Chattahoochee National Forest are scheduled to complete transportation studies this year. This is a nationwide initiative, with all national forests completing studies by 2015. The transportation studies identify roads needed for safe and efficient travel and for the protection, management, and use of national forests. At the same time, the studies offer an opportunity to identify roads that are no longer needed.

Nearly everyone who uses the national forest will be affected by possible future road management decisions, making it important to work together today to identify a sustainable road system. Some possible options that may be considered in the transportation study include maintaining individual roads at current standards; changing the level of access from passenger cars to high clearance vehicles; adding new or greater seasonal

restrictions; changing management jurisdiction; implementing year-long closures; or removing some roads entirely.

The Forest Service will analyze the level of access needed to efficiently manage a healthy forest. Desires of the public, potential risks to visitor safety and forest health, and agency road maintenance costs will be among other important considerations. The transportation study is not a proposal or decision, but is intended to help with road management planning. Before any future actions are taken, the Forest Service will provide additional opportunities for the public to participate in the decision making process.

Anyone may view maps of roads on the national forest and provide input through an online comment form on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/conf>. Hardcopy planning maps and comment forms are also available for review at the Ranger District offices and Forest Supervisor's office.

Your input is valuable to us, and thanks in advance for your time and comments.

Thanks, **Jeff Gardner** - Acting District Ranger,
Chattooga River Ranger District

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Supervisor's Office, 1755 Cleveland Highway, Gainesville, GA 30501
Phone: 770-297-3000, Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM and 1:00-4:00 PM

Chattooga River Ranger District Office, 9975 Highway 441S, Lakemont, GA 30552
Phone: 706-754-6221, Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM and 1:00-4:30 PM

"Catchin' Corner" - Troutng Tips



The following brief article is reprinted with permission from the Fly Shack Newsletter <http://www.flyshack.com/>

April: The Light Hendrickson Parachute: In the eastern and midwestern U.S., Hendrickson mayflies begin hatching in late April, give or take a week or two. Parachute style dry flies float with their bellies lying on the surface like real flies. They also do double duty - spinners as well as duns.

Mayfly Jargon Defined: <http://www.troutnut.com/hatch7/Mayfly-Ephemerella-subvaria-Hendrickson>

Nymph: The juvenile, underwater stages of mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies, and damselflies and other aquatic insects whose juvenile stages are covered by hard exoskeletons. The word can also refer to the fishing flies which imitate these creatures, in which case it is used as a blanket term for flies imitating any underwater stage of an invertebrate (except for crayfish and leeches).

Dun: Mayflies have two adult stages. They first emerge from the water as duns (scientifically known as the subimago stage). They then molt into the spinner (imago) stage, in which they mate and die. Sometimes the word "dun" is confusingly used to refer to a brownish gray color in fly tying materials.

Spinner: There are two winged stages of adult mayflies. They emerge from the water as duns, molt on land (usually) into their fully mature stage, spinners. As spinners, they mate, lay eggs, and die.

Trout fishing is about relaxing and having fun in beautiful environs. Enjoy yourself when you're alone seeking an envelope of solitude or when sharing your solitude with family or a good friend. Take a kid fishing.

"Many men go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after" Henry David Thoreau

For trout fishing tips, visit <http://rabuntu.org/site/about/educational-programs/jeffs-tips/>

Status Update – Chattooga North Fork Visitor Use Capacity Analysis

On January 31, 2012 the forest supervisors of the Sumter, Chattahoochee and Nantahala national forests issued Final decisions notices for Alternative 13A. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/scnfs/home/?cid=STELPRDB5253595>

US FOREST SERVICE READY FOR BOATERS TO FLOAT UPPER CHATTOOGA WHEN CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT

U.S. Forest Service officials announced on 3/14/2012 that beginning March 16, 2012, boaters with permits may float the upper segment of the Chattooga River when flows are high enough.

In the meantime, 6 appeals with 2 "stay" requests have been filed (for details, click [HERE](#)):

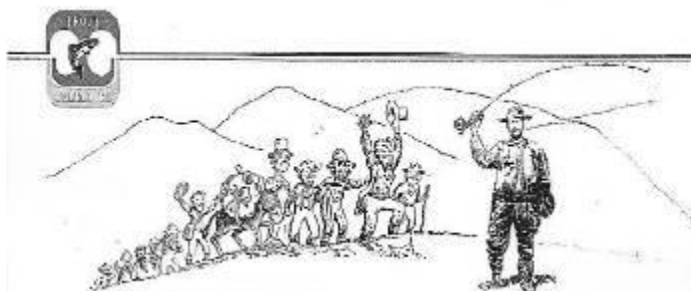
- The FS posted their response to public comments (posted Feb. 8, 2012).
- GA ForestWatch, GA Sierra Club and Wilderness Watch requested a "stay" & FS denial on a technicality. (posted Feb. 29, 2012)
- The boaters (American Whitewater and others) appealed the decision & requested year-round unrestricted access. (3/13/2012)
- GA ForestWatch, GA Sierra Club and Wilderness Watch appealed the boating decision & re-requested the "stay." (3/14/2012)
- The Whiteside Cove Association appealed primarily on the FS failure to study/consider entire 57 miles of the WSR. (3/16/2012)
- The Rust Family appealed the decision primarily on the issue of private property rights. (3/16/2012)
- Butch Clay appealed based primarily on the lack of a comprehensive, integrated Chattooga River Management Plan. (3/19/2012)
- Chattooga Conservancy appealed and requested a "stay" primarily on issues upstream of the Bull Pen Bridge. (3/19/2012)

Forest Service Southern Region Grants Request to Stay the Permitting of Boating on Upper Chattooga River

(3/27/2012) Status Quo Preserved until 6 Appeals are Reviewed. The USFS granted a request from Greenfire Law, on behalf of GA ForestWatch, the GA Sierra Club and Wilderness Watch, to stay a decision of January 31, 2012. For more information, visit [HERE](#)

- The boater's federal court case with the FS (demanding year-round unrestricted access) is expected to go to trial in late 2012.

Beware of the camel's nose! [HERE](#) Help protect backcountry solitude and remoteness.



Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Custom Fly Rod & Redington Reel Raffle

Winston BII-MX, 4 piece, 5 weight, 9' boron/graphite fly rod & Redington Delta reel

Over \$1,000 Retail Value!!

Drawing on July 17th at the Annual Summer Family Picnic

Tickets are \$3 each or 4 for \$10; Contact Kent Wilson for Tickets

(706) 746-7488 kandcwilson@winstream.net

Our good friend Mack Martin of Atlanta Fly Fishing School and North Georgia Custom Rods has donated this fly rod and reel to Rabun TU as a fundraiser (as he has in previous years) . <http://www.mackmartin.com/CustomRods.htm>

What's New Elsewhere?

The following article is reprinted from the WaysSouth newsletter: <http://www.wayssouth.org/campaigns/u-s-441/>



Road-widening through the mountains: How do we find a locally preferred alternative that will minimize impacts on businesses and residents?

The Georgia Department of Transportation is currently planning to widen a portion of U.S. Highway 441 in Rabun County. The rest of Highway 441 in north Georgia and western North Carolina is at least four lanes, mostly divided, but the section from Clayton north to the North Carolina state line is undivided and ranges from three lanes in some locations to four lanes with a two-way turn lane in others. GDOT plans to widen the entire stretch to four lanes with a median and turn lanes, in the process taking out many buildings.

WaysSouth is coordinating a group of area citizens that is developing a locally preferred alternative that will minimize the impacts to local businesses and residents. The group intends to present its alternative to GDOT in the coming months.



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2012 Georgia General Assembly Wrap-Up For more info - <http://tinyurl.com/gatuglegwrap2012>.

Report provided by Kevin McGrath – Chairman, Back-the-Brookie, Georgia Trout Unlimited

Coldwater Conservation Related Bills

HB 869 Saltwater Fishery Improvement Act of 2012 – Passed
HB 984 Interbasin Transfers | Protecting Downstream Communities – Failed
SB 269 Consent Decree in Lieu of Fines for Polluters – Failed
SB 415 Constructing Waste Treatment Plants before Permitting – Failed
SB 427 Expedited EPD Permit Reviews – Failed
SB 499 Require Violators to Pay for Third Party Water Quality Monitoring – Failed

Conservation Related Bills

SB 360 Tilapia Farming – Failed
SB 362 Deadhead Logging SB 362 Deadhead Logging - Failed
HB 400 and SB 374 Tennessee River Interbasin Transfer – Failed
SB 499 Require Violators to Pay for Third Party Water Quality Monitoring – Failed

Heroes of Conservation

Report provided by Mack Martin – Chairman, Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited

We have two "Heroes of Conservation" in the Georgia Council. Field & Stream magazine will recognize **Kevin McGrath** and **Alex Watson** as "conservation heroes" for their work in the very successful back the Brookie program here in Georgia. Sometimes it's nice to know that your thankless work is noticed and appreciated and I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Kevin and Alex for their hard work with the BtB program and the success that it has had in Georgia. If you do not subscribe to Field & Stream magazine, be sure to pick up the May edition that will be out in a few weeks. You will still receive a link to the article in the event you are unable to pick up a copy of this *collector's edition!*

"BACKCASTING"

March 3 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting: 3 Rabun TU members attended. The agenda included the following: Call to order, Introductions, roll call, special guests & opening remarks, Approval of (changes to) December 2011 Council minutes, Approval of (changes to) Treasurer's report, Approval of Georgia Council revised By-Laws, Casting for Recovery, NLC Update, Chattooga River- Alternative 13A, UGA Forestry Club (Cypress Knee yearbook), Trout Camp update, Project Healing Waters FF for Vets program, BtB report & Advocacy issues, Trout Camp graduates program, New business, Adjournment (Thanks to the Cohutta TU & AFFS for being the meeting Hosts)

Several donations were approved at the Rabun TU annual Planning Breakfast in February. Prez Pat Hopton presented:



Framed "Jewel of the Smokies" for fundraising to BRMTUC, Carl Riggs \$1,000 for GA Back the Brookie, Summer Intern Program, Kevin McGrath - GA Chm.



Framed "Jewel of the Smokies" for fundraising to FHTUC, Jimmy Harris



\$1,000 for Project Healing Waters-Wounded Warriors, Ken Griffin – GA Chm.



Framed "Jewel of the Smokies" for fundraising to ORTUC, Doug Brown



\$500 for UGA, The TU Coldwater Fisheries Endowment, Randy Elmore



\$2,500 donation to the Smithgall Youth Conservation Education Center at Dukes Creek, Sheila Humphrey – Program Manager
 In addition, Rabun TU donated \$1,000 to the TU Embrace-A-Stream Program, \$1,000 to the TU First Cast program for youth,
 \$1,000 to the Southeastern Lands Protection program and \$500 to the Casting for Recovery Program.
 All donations were made to 501(c)3 tax exempt organizations.

March 10 (Sat) Hoot on the Hooch – about 15 Rabunites attended.

List of the Dream Trip raffle winners:

- Grand Prize Dream Trip to Yellowstone – John Hicks**
- Five day trip to Kasba Lodge, NWT, Canada - Doug Adams
- TFO Rod Custom Rod by Garland Stewart - Danny Jue
- TFO Rod from AFFS - Bob Holmes
- River Through Atlanta Guided Trip - Ron Saunders
- Henry Cowen Guided Trip - Duane Oracle

- Nacoochee Bend Half day for 2 people - Charlie Bennett
- Fly Casting or Fly Fishing Class from AFFS - Fred Ruppel
- Wheatley Fly Box and 6 dz flies from AFFS - Andy Bowen
- Fly box with 6 dozen Flies - Carl Riggs
- Fly box with 6 dozen Flies – Cody Ensanian
- Able Nippers – Will Mohr

Mar 13 (Tues) Free Fly Tying Session - 4 participated tying the Light Cahill traditional dry fly.

Mar 20 (Tues) Chapter Meeting: over 50 folks attended at Tallulah Falls Middle School **Program:** "Saving Smokies Specks" by **Matt Kulp**, fisheries biologist for the Great Smoky Mtns National Park and park's 2010 Employee of the Year [HERE](#)

Matt, on behalf of the Rabunites and all of our guests from three other TU chapters and North Georgia Trout Online, please accept our sincere thanks for your exceptional program on park fisheries management, with special highlights on brook trout restoration. I received many compliments on your presentation as we finished the evening's festivities. Patsy and Ray Gentry enjoyed your dinnertime company and conversation, too! We all hope that you had a safe ride home and that you felt your time with our north Georgia gang was enjoyable and productive. Report by Jeff Durniak.

The Meeting Raffle had 11 buckets with 3 fly assortments, a handcrafted walking stick, a knife, bass fishing lures and much, much more. Our thanks to all who donated items and to **Tim McClure** for conducting the raffle. The raffle raised \$130 to cover the newsletter cost for members without E-mail.

BROOK TROUT

BROOK TROUT HAVE BEEN LOST FROM 75%

OF THEIR RANGE IN GREAT SMOKY MOUN-

TAINS NATIONAL PARK DUE TO LOGGING IN

PRE-PARK DAYS, COMPETITION FROM NON-NATIVE



FISH, AND ACID PRECIPITATION. THE NATIONAL

PARK SERVICE IS WORKING TO RESTORE

BROOK TROUT AND PROVIDE RECREATIONAL

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGLERS. ♡



Miles of brook trout stream in the Smoky Mountains from 1890 to present.



The historical range of southern brook trout.

THE BROOK TROUT

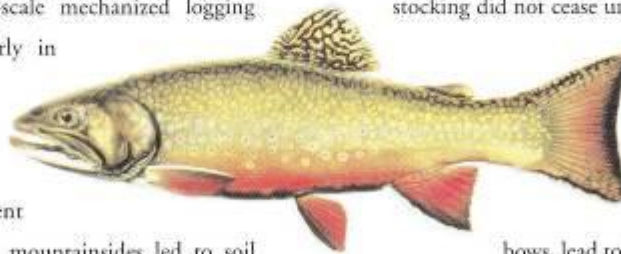
(*Salvelinus fontinalis*) is the only trout native to the southern Appalachian Mountains. It was once widespread in the Great Smokies, occupying small, swift, high elevation mountain streams as well as larger rivers down to elevations of 1,600 feet.

Since 1900, the brook trout has vanished from about 75% of its historical range in the Great Smoky Mountains. The initial loss was due to large-scale mechanized logging operations early in the 20th century.

Clearcuts and subsequent fires on steep mountainsides led to soil run-off and stream siltation. In addition, trees were cut from streambanks, allowing more sunlight to reach the waterways and raising water temperatures. The brook trout is even less tolerant of warm water than other trout species—it can not survive temperatures above 68° F. (20° C.). As a result of these environmental changes, the brook trout disappeared from all streams in

the Smokies below elevations of 3,000 feet.

The decline of the brook trout caused displeasure among anglers who longed to trout fish in the mountains. In response, around 1910, logging companies and other entities began stocking streams with non-native rainbow trout from the western United States, brown trout from Europe, and brook trout from the northern United States. Stocking of northern brook trout continued into the 1950s; rainbow trout stocking did not cease until 1975.



Competition from the non-native trout, especially rain-

bows, lead to further declines in the brook trout population. Rainbow trout are larger, more aggressive fish which dominate the prime habitats in streams and eat small brook trout. Biologists believe brook trout range in the Smokies has declined dramatically due to rainbow competition. Most surviving brook trout have become confined to marginal streams above 3,500 feet in elevation.

Brook trout foods



terrestrial insect



mayfly



larvae



Fisheries Fact Sheet

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

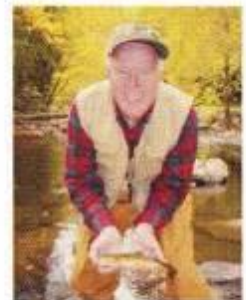


Fishy Facts

- GRSM boasts over 60 species of fish in 12 families
 - Everything from lampreys to darters to shiners to trout
- There are 2,115 miles of streams in GRSM but only about 800 miles contain fish
 - ◊ Fisheries staff has surveyed 1,524 miles to date (75% of total)
- Only *native* gamefish – brook trout, smallmouth bass, rockbass
 - *How did we get rainbow & brown trout . . . ?*
- There are 3 federally Threatened & Endangered (T&E) fish species (*All in Abrams Creek!*)
 - ◊ Smoky madtom (Endangered) – small catfish (<4 inches)
 - ◊ Yellowfin madtom (Threatened) – small catfish (<4 inches)
 - ◊ Citico Darter (Endangered) – small darter (<3 inches)
- Brook trout found in GRSM are a distinct southern Appalachian strain (species or subspecies?)
 - ◊ All brook trout south New River, VA southern Appalachian strain
- Brook trout fishing opened in **ALL but 2 streams (Bear Creek, NC & Lynn Camp Prong, TN)**
 - ◊ Can harvest 5 fish/day >7 inches – 1st time since 1975! – *see Fishing Regs!*
- Brook trout restoration efforts have restored 17.2 miles of brook trout in 11 streams since 1981
 - ◊ Represents roughly 11% of total brook trout range
- Fisheries staff annually monitors 15 brook trout streams (roughly 20 years of data!)

Long-term Monitoring Results

- Little River, Abrams Creek, and others typically contains 2,000-8,000 trout per mile
 - ◊ Of these 2,000-6,000 trout, there will be 250-600 legal trout (>7 inches) per mile
- Most trout only live 3-4 years and reach a maximum size of 9-12 inches
 - ◊ Annual mortality rates of adult brook and rainbow trout is 55-70%/year!
 - ◊ *Why?* – GRSM streams are food limited. Fish reach ~9 inches, can't take in enough food to maintain metabolic rate, begin to lose weight, and die.
 - ◊ *Why do brown trout reach 30 inches?* – Brown trout switch to a piscivorous (fish) diet at about 8 inches which allows them to get much bigger.
- Regulations play little role in trout population dynamics in GRSM
 - ◊ *Why?* – GRSM streams are food limited and natural mortality rates are so high. Anglers harvest <15%, so regulations have little effect compared to Mother Nature.
- Floods and droughts greatly influence fish populations in GRSM
 - ◊ Major droughts reduce adult numbers and major floods limit reproductive success
- Otters were introduced in 1992, but have had no impact of native trout
 - ◊ Crayfish are the primary food source for otters in the Park. Fish were present in 50-90% of otter stomachs examined, but these were mostly northern hogsuckers, white suckers, and stonerollers.
- What are some of the biggest trout ever caught in the Park?



28 inch
10.5 lb brown
Little River

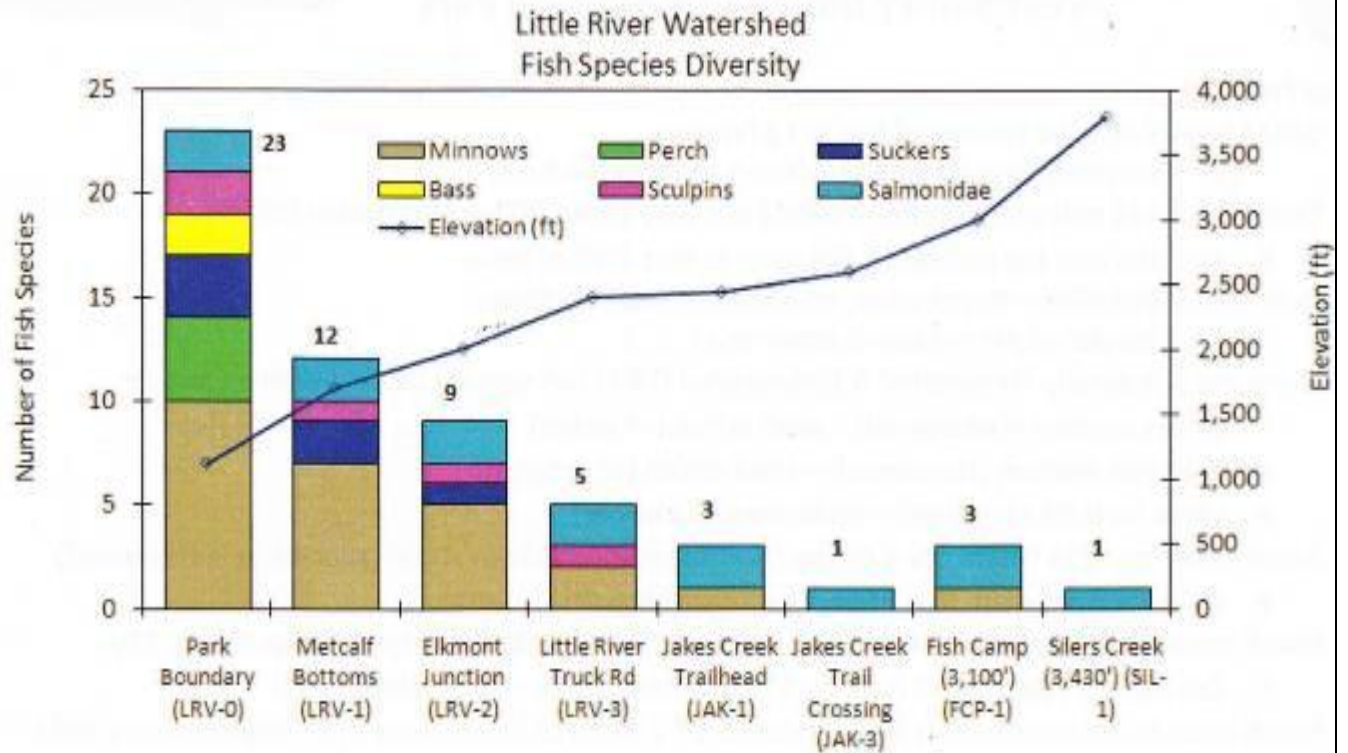


18.5 inch, 2.4 lb rainbow Hazel Creek

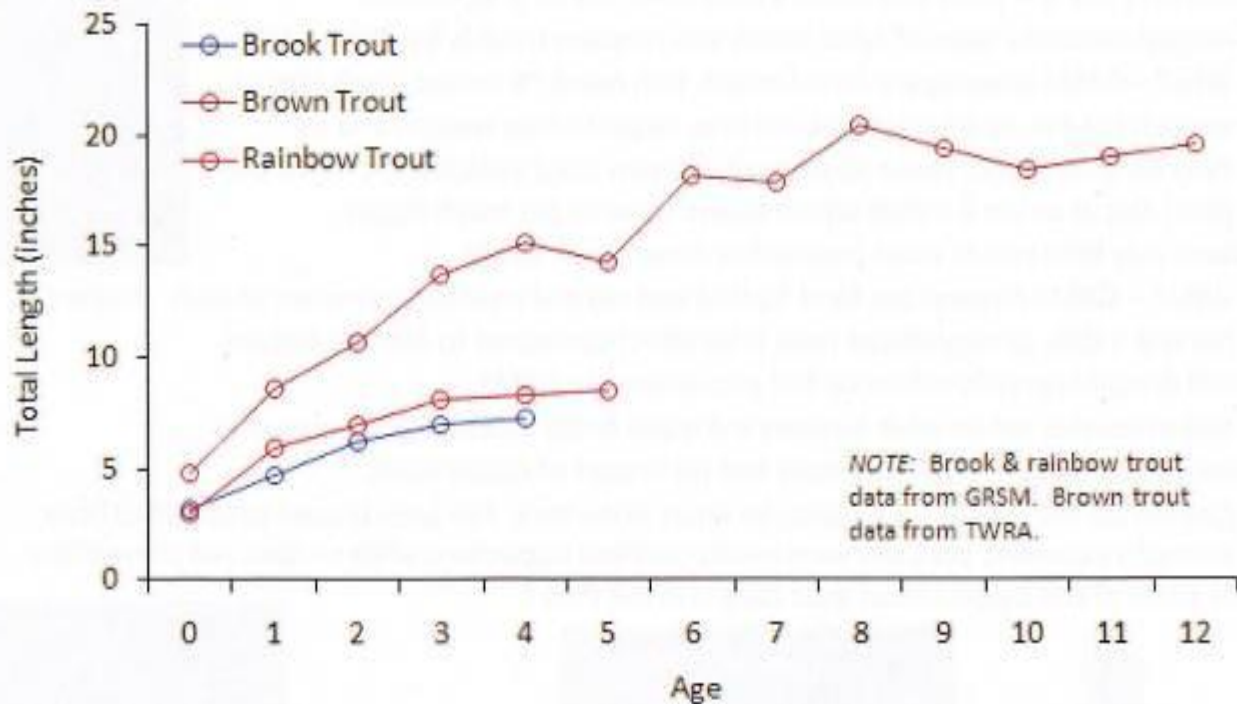
32.5 inch
15.5 lb brown
Cataloochee Creek



How do fish communities change as streams increase in elevation?



How *BIG* do wild brook, brown and rainbow trout get in the Smokies and how long do they typically *LIVE*?





Jeff Durniak introduces Matt Kulp at the March Chapter Meeting held in the Tallulah Falls Middle School building.

March 27 (Tues) Board of Directors Meeting. 5 attended, there was lack of a quorum.

Some agenda items included:

Recaps – 3/3 GA TU Council Meeting; 3/10 Hoot on the Hooch & Dream Trip Raffle; 3/13 Free Fly Tying Session; 3/23 RCMS Fishing Mentoring; Jim Kidd's Recent trip to Washington DC regarding LWCF funding; 2 anglers met with FS & 2 boaters to discuss boating Put-in/Take-out at Burrell's Ford at GA side parking lot and Take-out at campsite ¼ below Lick Log confluence.

Status Updates – Rabunite 101; Chattooga Boating Zoning; "OBSERVE and REPORT" (encounters by E-diary [HERE](#)) (violations to USFS [HERE](#)); Outreach to Scouts for Merit Badges. Etc; 4/14 Workday – for BtB, a Sat morning on North Fork Moccasin Creek; "Let's Go Fishing" workshop for Clayton Baptist Church ; 2013 Rabun Rendezvous Program; Handicap Access for Tallulah River; Family Fun Day scheduled for

Memorial Day, 5/28; Decals, patches, pins, front license tags, caps &/or shirts with Chapter Logo

Upcoming – 3/31 Rabunite 101; 4/10 Free Fly Tying Session; RCMS Fishing Mentoring; 4/14 Workday – for BtB; 4/13 & 14 TU SE Regional Rally Asheville; 4/17 Chapter Meeting Program: "Dark-Thirty 101"; 4/21 Project Healing Waters; 4/24 BOD Meeting; 4/28 SE Region FFF Conclave at Unicoi S.P.; 5/5 High Country Boil Fundraise BRMTUC; 5/9 - 13 Spring Camping & Fishing Outing; 5/14 Annual Spring Family Cookout; 4 PM, at Indian Lake, with Boy &/or Girl Scout Troops as our guests; 6/23 River Clean-up of Chattooga DH;

New Business – Road System Study on the Chattahoochee National Forest - comments due by April 13; Burton Hatchery Volunteers

Reports – Print Media; Membership Committee: Recruit & Retention; Treasury Report

Mar 31 (Sat Morning) Rabunite 101, 1/2-day fly-fishing workshop; about 14 TUErs helped – The 19 participants divided into 3 groups of 6 or 7 each which rotated to 4 stations to receive expert 1-hour instructions from local TU members in casting, knot tying, entomology and equipment. A basic book about the sport and a cookout after classes were included in the \$30 fee for the half-day seminar. Sheila Humphrey, GA DNR wildlife interpretive specialist at Smithgall Woods, taught the classes on entomology, and her husband Dave, a Federation of Fly Fishers certified instructor, was the lead casting instructor. The volunteers from the Rabun TU Chapter participated by teaching knot tying, equipment and serving lunch to the participants.

Letters To and From the Rabunites

From: [Jeff Durniak](#)

To: [Matt Kulp@nps.gov](mailto:Matt.Kulp@nps.gov)

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Subject: Smokies Brook Trout Talk - Here in Georgia!!!!

Matt, many folks were very interested in the work by you and Steve and wondered how they could contribute to the conservation efforts at their national park, just to the north. If you find a few minutes, feel free to offer a brief list of ways that north Georgians can indeed contribute to Great Smoky Mountains National Park fishery conservation efforts, from dollar donations to volunteer assistance on your stream sampling trips. Reply to "all" and Doug Adams, our newsletter editor, may be able to slip some of this information into our April edition that will be sent in the next day or two.

Thanks again Matt. Please let Steve know how much we appreciated him sharing you with us. Tell ole hop-a-long that we're rooting for his speedy recovery, too. We Georgians know

that our fishy park heritage rests safely in the hands of two exceptional biologists! Sincerely, Luftee Fan

From: <Matt.Kulp@nps.gov>

To: "Jeff Durniak" <jeffdurniak@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Subject: Re: Smokies Brook Trout Talk - Here in Georgia!!!!

Thanks Jeff,

There are several areas and ways people could get involved and/or support our efforts here in the Smokies. In general, it is generally via their time, talents or treasures:

1) First, we have a volunteer schedule that helps allows them of offer their time. The schedule has a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the summer, some of which are easy and some of which more physically demanding. If interested, have them call me or our volunteer coordinator Charlie Chmielewski (cell 865 661 7325; E-mail to request a schedule charlieflyfish@gmail.com) ahead of time to fill them in on what's needed. Projects include assisting with electrofishing surveys,

collecting water quality samples, litter pickups and helping a graduate student with brook trout spawning observations.

2) Second is to offer their time and talents via specific projects not listed on the volunteer schedule. These projects would require a little more forward training and time with us if interested. Examples would include volunteering to collect ranger creel data (includes passing a driving test ahead of time so they can use a government vehicle) and data entry.

3) Finally, there are a couple ways to offer their treasures for our fisheries program. Each year for the last 7-8 years, the Little River chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Fly Fishers have donated funds to hire a summer fisheries intern. The interns are typically upper level high school or entry level college students who are looking for fisheries experience. Many of these same interns return to us as summer NPS fishery technicians. Each position costs about \$4,000 per year for 12 weeks. There is an endowment set up with the Friends of the Smokies for the GRSM Fisheries Internship program. Once fully endowed, the program will support an intern each year for the park to use. A second way to help would be direct donations to the parks brook trout account, which directly benefits projects to restore Southern Appalachian brook trout to Smokies streams. Checks for the internship endowment (made out to Friends of the Smokies - Fisheries Internship) or for brook trout restoration (made out to GRSM - Fisheries) can be sent directly to the park at the following address:

Great Smoky Mountains National Park,
107 Park headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Thanks again for all the hospitality, delicious meal and fine friends. Please let us know how we can help or provide any info. We're happy to do so any time. Take care,
Matt Kulp - Fishery Biologist,
Great Smoky Mountains National Park

From: Tiger United Methodist Church, Nell Brown, Secretary
Sent: USPS on 3/7/2012

To: Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Thanks to the Chapter of Trout Unlimited for your gift to the church in memory of **Joan Veal**.

From: American Diabetes Association,

Paula M. Williams, Manager

Sent: USPS on 3/16/2012

To: Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Please accept our sincere gratitude for your recent contribution on 3/12/12 in the name of **Phillip J, Butt**. No goods or services were provided by the Association in return for this contribution. It is truly a privilege to have your support. Your donation to the Memorial and Honor Program is already hard at work helping us provide information about diabetes ... delivering important services to people with diabetes ... assisting dedicated scientist and researchers who are working to find ways to prevent the onset of diabetes ... and hopefully, find a cure.

From: King Memorial Community Church,

Pastor James Wright

Sent: USPS on 3/16/2012

To: Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Just want you to know King Memorial Community Church loves and misses **May Belle** (English). And wanted to say thank you for your part in honoring her memory with the gift given in her name. We know you will miss her as we will at the Church. We let people of the Church know the names of people that gave in her memory. We are truly appreciative. Thank you,

Editor's Notes: Joan, Phillip and May Belle were sister, brother, mother and grandmother of Rabun TU members.

From: Ken Griffin by E-mail

Date: Saturday, March 3, 2012

Thanks for the donation. I have posted the picture on our Face Book, and sent it to PHW National for posting.

From: Smithgall Woods, Sheila Humphrey, Wildlife Interpretive Specialist

Sent: USPS on 2/28/2012

To: Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Re; Donation to Outdoor Education Program

How I love Christmas in February or any other month! Thank you so much for your generous donation to Smithgall Woods Education Program. With budget cuts and penny pinching, your support has been a godsend in allowing me to purchase items not only to enhance the activities we already have in place at Smithgall, but also add new programs to our repertoire. Words can never express my gratitude nor appreciation that I have for your continued support of my endeavors to reach the students in our area and beyond. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

From: Smithgall Woods, John Erbele, General Manager

Sent: USPS on 2/28/2012

To: Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Thank you for the generous donation to the Smithgall Woods Outdoor Education Program. The education and conservation efforts at Smithgall Woods are possible because of the generosity and commitment of "partners" like Trout Unlimited. Thanks for all you do for water quality, children's education, and environmental stewardship in Georgia. It makes me proud to have a TU license plate on my vehicle.

From: Casting for Recovery Georgia,

Beverly Booth, Program Coordinator

Subject: Donation to CFR

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012

To: Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Thank you so much! What a wonderful surprise. You can make the check payable to Casting for Recovery - Georgia and mail it to me at the address below. Please thank the members of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited on behalf of all future participants of CFR-GA., 520 Old Harbor Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328

From: Georgia Back-the-Brookie, Kevin F. McGrath, Chairman

Sent: 2/29/2012 by E-mail

To: Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Thank you for your generous pledge of \$1,000 to our intern program. All of Georgia's Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) Stakeholders - Georgia DNR, USFS Chattahoochee National Forest and Georgia Trout Unlimited Back-the-Brookie appreciate your commitment.

Support, like yours, over the past several years has been a key factor in our success.

The combined support of Georgia Trout Unlimited Chapters, the Atlanta Fly Fishing Club, Georgia Women Flyfishers and North Georgia Trout Online will enable us to continue our important intern team. In 2012, interns will continue to evaluate the impact of enhancement and restoration projects from previous years. We plan to resume enhancing brook trout habitat in streams with structures and continue restoration projects on Walnut Fork, Tate Branch, Martin Branch and Stover Creek. Interns will support scheduled chapter workdays on the North Fork Moccasin Creek, Pretty Branch and Martin Branch. They will also help with Brook Trout Day at Trout Camp during the field work on Ammons Branch.

We look forward to another year protecting, enhancing and restoring brook trout throughout North Georgia and sharing our success with you. Regards,

If you have a comment or an opinion to share in TIGHT LINES, please submit it in 250 words or less to edadams1@windstream.net

Fishing Report: We went to the Chattooga last Saturday (3/24/2012) and it was running about 2.0. There was not any activity or hatches on top but we tried anyway. It was stained and they could not see on top to get to the caddis. We used a dry dropper rig with an Adams and a hare's ear. I caught a rainbow on the hare's ear but it was on the swing. A certain friend told me to watch for them to be looking for movement in the fly. I took it to heart and I made sure movement is what they got at the end of the cast. As the day progressed the fishing got better. We moved several times and at 4:00 it was great. The caddis were everywhere and the fish were not hitting them on top but just below the surface it was a different story. Between the two of us we got about 20 and had a blast. I missed about 15 that hit and let go but 9 in hand was truly a victory for me. Report submitted by Ray Gentry



THANK YOU

Mack Martin of North Georgia Custom Rods and **Atlanta Fly Fishing School** for donating the beautiful custom-made Winston fly rod and Redington Delta reel for the Rabun TU fundraising raffle.

All donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501(c)3 non-profit) are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Frank Tolbert has resigned from the Rabun TU Board of Directors but will remain a member of the Chapter. Frank's resignation is due to circumstances not related in any way to Trout Unlimited. The BOD nominates **Wayne Prosser** to fill the vacancy as Director through F/Y 2014. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the April Chapter meeting, followed by the election.

We send our condolences to the family of **Tony Wheeler**. Tony was a former member of Rabun TU.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thanks for re-upping: **Lewis Reeves Jr., Yong Kim, Hugh Thompson, Ray Hannah, Eugene Nolte, Bradley Tucker, Kent Wilson, Kyle English, Don Kinser, Fritz Vinson & Travis Barnes.**

It is time to renew your membership: **Lewis Reeves IV (SE), Parrish Lake (SE), Russell Burken, Nancy Gribble, Wesley Hopper, Patrick O'Neal, John Ramsey, Bob Sharpe, Chris Whitley, Michael Jones, Neil Anderson, Bob Blalock, Larry Jarrett, Samuel D'Angelo, Rachael Davis, Carl Fackler, Joe Kitchens, Cliff Jordan, Isaac McCrackin, Charles Pennington & Allan Ramsay.**

Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2012

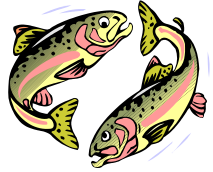
Voting Board of Directors Members:

President - Pat Hopton with Social Media, Awards, Budget	(706) 782-4978	scotts_creek58@yahoo.com
Vice President - Steve Perry with Membership Recruitment and Retention	(706) 746-3558	flyguide@gmail.com
Treasurer - Tony Allred with Reports, Budget, Entrance Table at Rabun Rendezvous	(706) 490-4755	allredt@windstream.net
Secretary - Ray Gentry with Correspondence, Scouts Fishing Event	(404) 680 6736	regentry@windstream.net
Past President - Larry Walker with Rabun Co Middle School Mentoring, Print Media	(706) 244-4345	amosndixie@windstream.net
Director through FY 2012 - Jim Kidd with Stream Projects, Scouts	(706) 782-2474	jkidd@windstream.net
Director through FY 2012 - Terry Rivers w/Festivals, BtB, Campout Equip, Memorials	(706) 782-7419	tr1121@windstream.net
Director through FY 2013 - Jeff Durniak with Meeting Programs, Hosting Speaker	(706) 892-6576	jeffdurniak@yahoo.com
Director through FY 2013 - Glenn English with Name Tags	(706) 212-9983	genenglish09@yahoo.com
Director through FY 2014 - Tim McClure with Meeting Refreshments, Meeting Raffle	(706) 782-6159	tcmcclure64@gmail.com
Director through FY 2014 -		VACANT
Director through FY 2015 - Kent Wilson with Rod Raffle	(706) 746-7488	kandcwilson@windstream.net
Director through FY 2015 - Frank Patton with Kids Fishing Events	(770) 339-7095	julianfpatton@yahoo.com

Non-voting committee leaders:

Doug Adams with Newsletter Editor, Board of Directors' Agenda, Rabun Rendezvous	(706) 746-2158	edadams1@windstream.net
Jimmy Whiten with Dream Trip Raffle	(706) 886-6546	jimmywhiten@yahoo.com
Charlie and Kathy Breithaupt with Trout Camp, Fly Fishing 101	(706) 782-6954	knc615@windstream.net
June Landreth with Christmas Dinner	(706) 746-2295	landreth@windstream.net

Any member of Rabun TU may attend the Board of Directors meetings



Notes from the Prez

Be Proud of Your Chapter!

I had the privilege these past few weeks of presenting several donations from the Rabun Chapter to various conservation groups. These donations, made in the form of cash or gifts, were the result of our fund-raising efforts at the Rabun Rendezvous and other events. While most of the funds we raise are used for work done by our Chapter, we use a portion to support other like-minded groups in our area. I want to take a minute to let you to know how appreciative these groups are to be receiving these donations from the Rabun Chapter.

I had a lump in my throat as I heard how our donation to Project Healing Waters would be used to support the rehabilitation of wounded veterans; how our donation to Smithgall Woods Conservation Center would be used to reach inner city children on the importance of cold water conservation; how our donation to Back The Brookie would help to restore an important part of our Southern Appalachian heritage; how our donation to Casting For Recovery would give breast cancer patients a chance to leave behind their worries if but for a short time... I could go on. There are many other groups, all just as worthy, that we have supported through our donations.

I know that you have worked hard at the Rabun Rendezvous and our other fund raising events. But these are the fruits of your labors. You have made the lives of many people better for it. I hope you are just as proud as I am of our Rabun Chapter!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Hopton".

Pat Hopton

Please tell us if you have E-mail, it will
save the chapter \$1.28 per newsletter mailed:
E-Mail edadams1@windstream.net
RABUN CHAPTER of TROUT UNLIMITED
PO BOX 371
CLAYTON, GA 30525