



Tight Lines

April 2017 Newsletter of the
Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited

Editor: Michele Crawford mcrawfordtu@windstream.net
Rabun TU's Award Winning Web Site <http://rabuntu.org/site/>



“Something to think about: If you fish the wrong fly long and hard enough, it will sooner or later become the right fly.” John Gierach

**Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Join us for our regular monthly meetings
every third Tuesday of the month.
This month the date is April 18, 2017!!**

**Our Meeting Place is at Rabun
Gap Presbyterian church Fellowship Hall
Social & Story telling (Truth or Lies) starts
At 6:30 pm, then at 7:00 – Program & Meeting.
The church is located just past
Rabun Gap Nachoochee School
at 8397 Wolffork Road, Rabun Gap, GA 30568.**

**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 email and to raise
money to pay for our storage building.
Bring an item to donate
and a dollar or two for raffle tickets.**



Visit us on
Facebook

Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On

Letter from the President



Much needed relief in the form of some very significant rain has come to the northeast Georgia mountains recently with some more expected later this month. Hopefully this is a good omen for the low, clear water that has challenged those chasing trout in local streams recently.

In case you may not have heard, Mack Martin of the Atlanta Fly Fishing School was this year's winner of the Dream Trip. Mack is not only generous with his time and talents, but also his financial support of Trout Unlimited chapters statewide, the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited and the Council's annual Trout Camp. I cannot imagine a more deserving winner. The Rabunites extend hearty congratulations to Mack!

Be sure to check out the monthly fishing expeditions being organized by Rabunite Mike Fuller who will coordinate trips to the fifteen different streams/rivers that make up the Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail. There is a lot of great fishing to be experienced on the trail. Please take the opportunity to join Mike and others as they give it a whirl.

Don't forget our monthly chapter meeting are 6:30 P. M. on the third Tuesday of each month at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church in Rabun Gap, Georgia. Hope to see you at a meeting soon. April is a busy month for Trout Unlimited functions aside from the usual great fishing afforded by the warming temperatures so be sure to check the newsletter for other upcoming events this month.

And just remember *"We ask a simple question and that is all we wish... Are all fisherman liars or do only liars fish?" William Sherwood Fox*

Kent

Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On

Forward Casting Calendar of Events

April 18 (Tues): Regular monthly meeting for Rabun TU. Since the best fishing season is fully upon us our own “Dredger” (Jeff Durniak) will be our guest speaker with a presentation on “Summer fly fishing Tips.” No matter your level of experience or expertise you will always come away with more vast knowledge anytime you attend a meeting where Jeff is presenting. Don’t miss out!! See you there. Don’t forget your dollar or two for the raffle.



April 21–23 (Fri– Sun): Trout Unlimited SE Regional Meeting in Gatlinburg, TN. For more information click [here](#). It’s really close by this year so a great opportunity to hang out and learn so much for fellow anglers.

April 25 (Tues): Rabun TU monthly board meeting starting at 6:30. Everyone welcome!

April 28 (Fri): Blue Ridge Chapter High Country Boil Fundraiser from 5:30 to 9 pm. Silent Auction and Live Entertainment. For more info click [here](#).

April 29 (Sat): 2nd Annual Blue Ridge Trout Fest. Blue Ridge, GA in the downtown City Park. For more info click [here](#).

May 16 (Tues): Annual Scouts Fishing and cookout at Indian Lake.

May 17-21 (Wed–Sun): Rabun TU Annual Spring Campout at Oconee State Park. Go ahead and reserve your camp site by clicking [here](#). Terry has reserved site #93 for our host site for meals. More info next month, but reserve your camping spot now.

Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On



Matching the Hatch: brought to you from many ole Rabunites who have spent countless hours fishing and trudging along river banks, tying flies, casting, overcoming weather, bugs, and no telling what else to bring you this recorded, tried and true valued information.

April fly of the month By Terry Rivers

A great fly to have in your box at all times. The reason for the parachute is the brown and grizzly hackles are hard to detect in the water. I have fished this fly since I started and have had good results. It's also a great strike indicator when trailing a nymph. If you are lucky, you might even have a double hookup.

HOOK: Dry fly, size 12- 20

TAIL: Grizzly and brown mixed



BODY: Dark gray

PARACHUTE: Calf tail or synthetic antron

WING: Grizzly and brown hackle to match hook size.

" SEE YA ON THE RIVER"

Parachute Adams

To view a Hatch Chart for all month click [Hatch Chart](#)

More tips and helpful information from Dredger and other Georgia DNR fisheries staff. Click [here](#) for the latest reports.



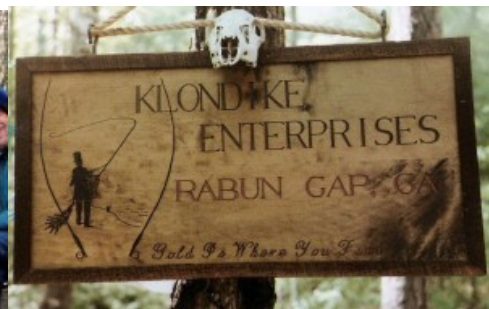
How's the river? Click on the name of the river to check water levels.

[Chattooga Level](#)

[Tallulah River Level](#)

[Nantahala](#)

[Little Tennessee](#)



April Hatches

THE BUGS	TIME OF MONTH	TIME OF DAY	SUGGESTED FLIES
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
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 L pm to dark	12-14 Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
YELLOW STONE FLY	LATE	E to L am L pm to dark	14-16 Yellow Stimulator or Elk Hair Caddis (Yellow) 14-16 Yellow Stone Nymph
LIGHT CAYHILL 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
NOTHING AT ALL	ALL MONTH	ALL DAY	Dredging Nymphs: 12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, PT #14 Parachute Adams is always a good searching pattern



Not quite ready to be a fly fisherman? Try these alternatives for catching trout.



Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On

Back Casting

Nearly a record setting crowd for our March meeting. While everybody loves fishing presentations every now and then it's good to throw in something different. CEO of the Orianne Society Chris Jenkins did just that. His presentation along with his "live" specimens provided for a great evening of knowledge for those in attendance. His speech and slideshow about Rattlesnakes held the audience captive. Then, unlike when we talk about trout and only have photos Chris had brought live subject matters. Needless to say we can't think Chris enough for a lively and educational meeting.



One of our local scouts also won a rod in the raffle we held just for the scouts in attendance there that night.

Also THANKS to donations from Kent Wilson, Pat Hopton, Terry Rivers, Doug Adams, Frank Patton, Charlie & Kathy Breithaupt, and Ron Michaels we raised \$151 at our monthly raffle.

What a night!! WHHaaaaaaa WHOOooooo!!

Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On

Back Casting



Donation to Smithgall Woods

Last month Kent presented Kathy Church, who is the Interpretive Specialist/Program Coordinator for Smithgall Woods Regional Education Center, our donation that will support ongoing educational programs at Smithgall Woods.



DREAM TRIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

At the Foothills Hoot on the Hooch last month the dream trip tickets were rotated in a basket for several turns. And the winner was for sure a TU Asset.....

Mack Martin

Congratulations!! Enjoy your trip!



JEFF DURNIAK AWARDED FOR DEDICATION

The Foothills Chapter awarded Jeff “Dredger” Durniak at the “Hoot on the Hooch” last month. They presented him with a original portrait painting of him with a trout (of course) by artist Caroline Wilder. They wanted to recognize Jeff for all he has done for fly fishing in GA.

THANKS JEFF AND CONGRATULATIONS!!

Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On

Back Casting

For the 10th year the Rabunites gathered in the early Spring to pass along their knowledge of fly fishing for trout with a half-day seminar covering the basics of our beloved sport. Sixteen enthusiastic and interested folks (women and men of all ages) spent an hour in each of the following classes: casting, knots, entomology and equipment. They learned enough to get them started; all they need now is

cold, clean water and hungry trout.

The highlight of this session was the presence of five members of the Project Healing Waters program from Shepherd Spinal Clinic in Atlanta. Two of those guys even brought their wives. It was an honor and a privilege to be able to give back to those who have given so much for

our country.

Thanks to all the Rabunites who turned out in force and, as the saying goes, “many hands make light loads”...or something like that. A special thanks to Shelia and Dave Humphrey who always help with this event.

This is what we ought to be doing.....passing it on and also serving our veterans. **Well done!!**



Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On

News and Information

Gold Rush TU Chapter 733
Fly Fishing Festival -- Frog Hollow
April 22th 2017

Come join Trout Unlimited members for our annual Fly Fishing Festival in the beautiful confines of Frog Hollow. Whether one is a novice to the field or an experienced fly fisherman, they will enjoy the chance to catch the fish of a lifetime. For \$35.00, you can fish one section of this trophy trout stream for 2 hours.

A barbeque dinner will be served at 12 pm and will be followed by silent and live auctions. Items being auctioned include fly boxes with custom made flies, art items, and handcrafted wood designs.

In addition to numerous raffle items, we will have several auction items, including a signed and framed print by Broderick Crawford and an 8' 4 wt custom rod constructed by Bert Nagy.

For more information please contact
Mike Thornton at drtrout1951@gmail.com,
or Jack Nelson at jack.nelson@mindspring.com

Directions:
900 Frog Hollow Road
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On

News and Information



Take a Chance!
Buy a raffle ticket for a Big Green Egg -
benefits
[Casting for Recovery's Georgia Program](https://donate.castingforrecovery.org/EGGRAFFLE)

<https://donate.castingforrecovery.org/EGGRAFFLE>



Tickets are \$10 each or 5
Tickets for \$40
Drawing will be held on April
29th at Troutfest
*Need not be present to
win! Egg will be available to
take home or picked up in Blue
Ridge, GA at a later date.*

Generously donated by our friends at:



1799 Ogletree Road, Suite 300
Auburn, AL 36830
(334) 521-7207

Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On

Fishing Reports

JUST FYI: The DH on the Chattooga River is hot and happening. Have been seeing several reports on social media of some great days fishing for many folks. But the trout are not the only thing active. Thieves are also hot at it. Breaking into cars and stealing anything they can get their hands on. So park on the Georgia side where your vehicle is more visible or drive the oldest vehicle you got and leave the windows down and nothing in it.

The USFS recently got the sign up on Tallulah River for the handicap assessible fishing pier. The pier has already helped introduce many to trout fishing this year who otherwise would not have had access to the water. Thanks to all who contributed time and money for such a worthy project.



WHAaaaaaa WHOOoooooooooooo!!

New Fishing Blog from GA DNR - Weekly "Trout Stocked" List WRD trout stocking coordinator John Lee Thomson worked with WRD-HQ web guru Chris Semerjian during the offseason, and they now present you with our weekly trout stocking list, online. DNR's longstanding policy prohibits the release of trout stocking information before the fish are stocked (in order to give everyone a fair shot at the fish). These lists will be updated weekly, on Friday afternoons, as each week's stocking is completed. WRD and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service do hope that this will lead to more fishing fun for you and your family.

<http://www.georgiawildlife.com/Fishing/Trout>

Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On

Fishing Reports

“ I only caught one fish”

By Brian Weeks

Straight up, I'll tell you right out of the gate, this is a report of only catching one fish.

I got up to Wacherstep Creek around one in the afternoon in search of some beautiful north Georgia wild brookies. Both the air temp and the water temp were cold. The water was low and the water was clear. And over the next three hours I fished the heck out of it, to no avail.

Every type of water got a cast, switching flies along the way. Still nothing, and I covered a lot of water. I didn't even get a bump. Ever had one of those days when you were striking out for so long that you wished you'd just get hung up on the bottom so you'd feel some sort of a tug? Yeah.

With the sun behind the clouds, there was no sun on the water in which to target. So, I focused on aiming for deeper waters in hopes of finding warmer waters in hopes of finding you know what. Runs, pools, eddies, plunge pools - they all got three casts. And they all yielded nothing.

The end of my day was nearing and I was wondering if I would be leaving with nothing in my net. As I approached what would probably be the last stop on this train ride to Skunkville, I gazed at the promising-looking wide, deep, dark green plunge pool in front of me and pondered how I should approach it.

I decided to grid it off and hit every possible lie at every possible depth I could. There was brush running down the middle of the plunge pool that I was trying to avoid getting hung up on. The first dozen casts were spent in more shallow and calm water - where slow met fast so to speak. Result: nothing.

So, next up was targeting the deeper, warmer water at the head of the pool where the water was plunging down into it. This was my best shot of the whole day. The water here was deeper by quite a bit than any I had encountered up to this point and the broken water provided the theoretical trout with the cover they'd seek on a day like this. So, I clipped off the fly I was using and tied on another just like it, only heavier.

Another dozen or so casts on the left side of that brush and still . . . nothing. I didn't even get hung up. So, still no tug.

I looked at the time and with the clock counting down on me, I moved slowly around the tail of the pool to the right side of the brush and aimed for where the water was coming down into the pool with the goal of letting it drive my flies deep down into the depths of that dark green water.

First cast, nothing. Second cast, my line went taut, I set the hook, the line didn't move, and I immediately thought,

"I'm hung up". Then it moved. And lo and behold, it was an actual fish! And this didn't feel like a little four-incher either.



After a fun time of him trying to escape and me doing my best to prevent that from happening, this nine-inch beauty was in my net and a cry of elation was heard from somewhere deep in the north Georgia woods.

Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On

Fishing Reports

First Rabunites Unite fly fishing trip

We met at the Dillard Piggly Wiggly parking lot on Wednesday, April 12 at 6:30 . Myself, Frank Patton and Jimmy Whiten left and headed to The Tuckasegee for a morning of trout fishing. This was Frank and myself first time fishing it. The weather was a little cloudy but cleared a little later. We were not the first people on the water that day.

Where we fished the water level was shallow. When the sun came out it was bright and so the trout moved into deeper water about a 1/4 mile up stream.

The bite was not on where we fished and because we did not know the water, we missed opportunities for a better bite. The trout were found in the deeper holes which we found out was upstream from where we fished. We have better knowledge of the water and won't make the mistake again.



The next trip will be April 22. The Ravens Fork River in Cherokee will be the destination. The details will be posted soon. WE HAVE A CHAPTER MEETING This coming TUESDAY (4/18) and I have maps of the NC Fly Fishing Trail . Hope to see all there.

Thanks all,
Mike Fuller



Heading home after a great
kick off to our Fellowship
and Fly Fishing !!!!!

Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On

Membership News & Updates

Current membership: 168 members, 26 life members, and 8 stream explorers.

New Members: Welcome Richard Mueller. Hope to see you on the river soon!

Thanks for re-upping your membership: Brooks & Amanda Adams, Thomas Johnson, Ron Michaels, Sandy Morgan, Charles Pennington, John Ramsey, Clifton Smith, Bradley Tucker, Russel Tyre and Stephen Weinelt.

Time to renew your membership: Fritz Bertz, Jimmy Cochran, Larry Ekman, Claudia English, John Hill, Hal Howard, Dennis Williams, Janet Wilson, John Wall and Kaplan Mitchell.

From a recent NGTO Post that truly captures how fishing makes us all feel!



Visit us on
Facebook

Don't forget to keep up with the Foxfire Boys and all their happenings at the Nichols Center by visiting their face book page. Click [here](#) to check out the calendar of events.

Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On

Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2017

Kent Wilson - President	706-746-7488	<u>kandcwilson@windstream.net</u>
Wayne Processor - VP	706-746-6293	<u>wp068@windstream.net</u>
Kathy Breithaupt - Secretary	706-782-6954	<u>knc615@windstream.net</u>
Joel Wise -Treasurer	706-782-7538	<u>jwise@windstream.net</u>
Steve Perry - Past President	828-371-1633	<u>flygide@gmail.com</u>
Terry Rivers - 2017	706-782-7419	<u>tlr1121@windstream.net</u>
Charlie Breithaupt - 2017	706-782-6954	<u>knc615@windstream.net</u>
Mike Fuller - 2018		<u>david2053@windstream.net</u>
Frank Tolbert - 2018		<u>frankdavidtolbert@gmail.com</u>
Ray Gentry - 2019		<u>regentry@windstream.net</u>
David Ruth - 2019		<u>deruth@truvista.net</u>
Brian Weeks - 2020		<u>second50270@gmail.com</u>
Tony Allred - 2020	706-490-4755	<u>tallred@gamountains.com</u>

Non Voting Leaders :

Michele Crawford Newsletter	706-490-4574	<u>mcrawfordtu@windstream.net</u>
Jerry McFalls Scouts - Trout in the Classroom		<u>threeforksadventures@hotmail.com</u>
Jeff Durniak Meeting Programs	706-892-6576	<u>jeffdurniak@yahoo.com</u>
Sid Berkstresser Membership		<u>sidberk3@windstrem.net</u>
Larry Walker Advocacy		

Conserve

Protect

Restore

Pass it On