



Tight Lines

September 2016 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/>



"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope."

John Buchan

**Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Join us for our regular monthly meetings
every third Tuesday of the month.
This month the date is September 20th!!**

**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.
You Might WIN something !**

DON'T MISS OUT ON A GREAT TIME WITH FELLOW RABUNITES

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Notes from the President



President's Message

It's very hard to believe that two years have passed, and I'm less than a month away from being "PAST" President. This two years has been filled with unexpected challenges- Hello Scout Hut; Good-bye Scout Hut; relocation; storage; snow on our Rendezvous parade; and the list goes on. Our Chapter is amazing, and all these challenges could not have been handled without an incredible, amazing, hard-working, and dedicated Board of Directors. Thank you all for your efforts, and thank you to the nominating committees who put these people in their positions. I promise they did all they could to keep me out of the ditch and make me look good. To the past Presidents- a huge Thank You for your guidance- again keeping me between the lines. More than anything else- to the members of our Chapter- THANK YOU! It feels like we made some positive progress in spite of our hurdles, and your hard work and dedication are what makes the Rabun Chapter the best in the country.

We have a wonderful group of officers and board members taking charge. It is a combination of us "old" members, and our new "young guns" who are chomping at the bit to get us into the current century. And, they have a new, abbreviated Strategic Plan, as of the August meeting, to keep us even more on course, as far as our activities and how we spend our funds to accomplish our mission to Conserve, Protect, and Restore.

With your permission(or without it), as Michele & Charlie publish the September "Tightlines", I will be "West of---", in Montana and Wyoming, visiting some very special places, and paying a fly fisherman's tribute to some beautiful trout water. At our September meeting- BRING YOUR CHECKBOOKS! We are going to auction a Tom Landreth bamboo rod- a 7 ½ foot, 4 wt. At the August meeting, I received the first bid, so come prepared.

Again, and finally, to all of you- Thank you for your support; Thank you for letting me serve as your President; I am humbled to be among the past Presidents who were able to give so much more.

THANK YOU.
See you on The River!

Steve



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Update on Rabun Episode



The boys from Anglers and Appetites were here in Rabun County back in June doing some trout fishing and some seriously good eating. Anglers and Appetites is a fishing and eating show hosted by Dave, the fisherman and Phil, the chef. By day Dave fished local

streams with some of our best Rabunites and in the evenings Phil was hanging out with some of our top local chefs and restaurants cooking up some awesome entrees. The Angler and Appetites show is shown on Fox Sports South. The week long series filmed in Rabun County is suppose to air in September. We'll get you the date as soon as we find out. Mean while, you can catch some of their other shows on U-Tube. They have been all in our neck of the woods before so enjoy some of their previous work!! Click [here](#) for an episode they did in the western NC trout streams.

Sept update: The two part Rabun County series will air on Fox South in October. When I get the exact dates I will forward them on so you be sure to watch.



Dave and Phil at the Chop House on Lake Burton



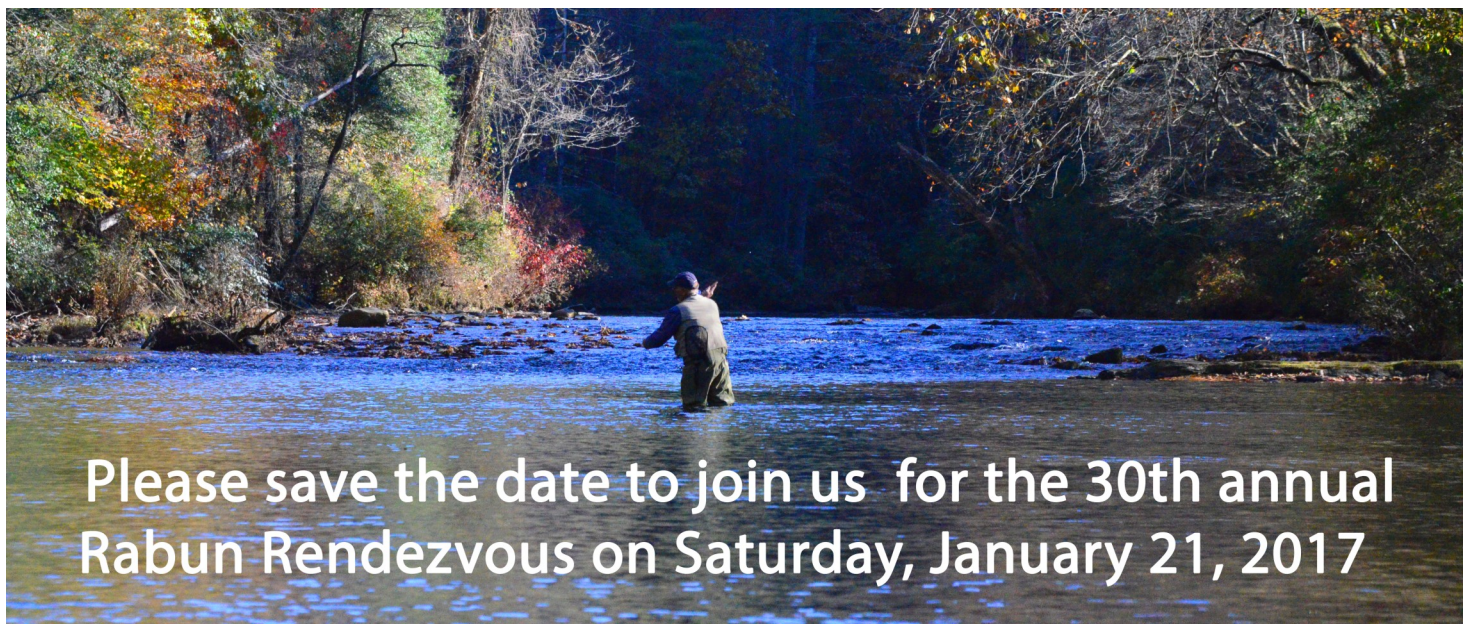
Chef Phil with local top chef Jamie of Fortify on Main Street Clayton.

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Please save the date to join us for the 30th annual Rabun Rendezvous on Saturday, January 21, 2017

We are gearing up for a great big celebration!! We hope you will be able to join us for our 30th annual Rabun Rendezvous. It will be a great time! Our guest speaker will be Beverly Smith, Vice President for Volunteer Operations, TU National. Beverly is responsible for the Volunteer Operations Department which supports 36 state councils and 380 local chapters across the country by delivering a suite of applications, trainings and resources aimed at helping volunteers more easily and effectively accomplish TU's mission in their local communities. Her responsibilities also include managing TU's youth education programs, veterans' services partnership, and women/ diversity initiative. Beverly joined TU as the Volunteer Operations Coordinator in 2007, was promoted to Director in 2009, and Vice President in 2014. Prior to joining TU, Beverly worked for the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance and the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League. Beverly grew up in Charleston, S.C. and received a B.A. from the University of Virginia. She lives in Jackson, Wyo. with her husband, daughter and springer spaniel where she enjoys volunteering locally, fly fishing and bird hunting.

We'll be at our usual location at the Dillard House. Social will start at 5 o'clock PM. Folks will start gathering to "pick the pig" and enjoy the rocking chairs on the porch of the Conference Center. There will be snack trays of cheeses, crackers, veggies with dips and fruits. Soft drinks and ice will be available. If you want something stronger, better bring it yourself. (BYOB) There will also be a fire inside to warm your buns. The Foxfire Boys, with their famous Blue Grass Music, will also begin at 5 pm. Then about 6:30 we will dine on fish, chicken and pork with all the side dishes and desserts that have made the Dillard House so famous. It is a serve yourself buffet, so you will not leave hungry. The cost will be \$33 for adults. \$25 for those under the age of 15. Cash, checks, VISA or MasterCard. We don't do advanced tickets, just pay at the door.

The Dillard House has set special rates for rooms starting at \$69 (plus tax) for those that call and tell them you're attending the Trout Unlimited Rabun Rendezvous. Call: 706-746-5348 or Toll Free 1-800-541-0671. Also Mountain Aire Cottages on North Main Street in Clayton is a good source for lodging. Call them at 706-782-9568.



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Forward Casting Calendar of Events

Sept 17 (Sat): Georgia State Council TU quarterly meeting. Meeting starts at 9:00 AM and is being held at the Rome Eco Center.

Sept 20 (Tues): Regular monthly meeting of the Rabun TU Chapter. Our guest speaker will be David Vinson from the USFS. Davis is a Zone Wildlife Biologist forests working in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Chattooga River and Blue Ridge Ranger Districts. David's program is titled "Forest Service fisheries initiatives in northeast Georgia" This will be a very informative meeting with a great speaker. Social starts at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00. Also, don't forget we will be electing our upcoming board members at this meeting. See you there!!



David and other USFS personnel and volunteers work with the scouts on a spring work day project.

Sept 24 (Sat): Unicoi Outdoor Adventure Day. Georgia DNR needs our help volunterring. For more info to sign up to help with one of the most successful programs ever see page

Sept 27 (Tues): Monthly BOD Meeting. All are welcome. Meeting starts promptly at 6:30.

Sept 29 – October 1 (Thursday–Sat): Trout Unlimited National Meeting in Bozeman, MT.

Sept 30 (Fri) The Mountain Bridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited is pleased to announce plans for its upcoming "Fly Fishing Film Tour" event in the Upstate of South Carolina. The Fly Fishing Film Tour is the entertainment event of the year for America's fly fishers. This event will be held at Brewery 85, an upstate premier craft brewery located at 6 Whitlee Court in Greenville. Doors open at six PM with the show starting at seven. Advanced tickets (\$12) can be acquired online at www.mbtu.org, or at Chattooga River Fly Shop or can be bought at the door for \$15. Beverages and snacks will also be available for purchase along with raffles and a silent auction. Contact Jason Long, Chapter Pres. at (864) 320-7343 for more info. This event has become a popular event. Don't miss out!!

Oct. 8 (Sat): The Coosa Valley TU chapter will hold their 21st Annual Trout Unlimited Chili Cook Off. Sign Up is going on right now. For more information go to: <http://coosavalley.tu.org/coosavalley/trout-unlimited-chili-cook-off> and to learn more about the cook off contest go to: <http://coosavalley.tu.org/coosavalley/cookoff-detail-rules> for detailed rules. Always a great event!!

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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.

September fly of the month: By: Terry Rivers

HOOK: #16 SCUD HOOK
TAIL: PHEASANT TAIL FIBERS
BODY: UNDER LAYER RED THREAD/TOP LAYER MYLAR
HEAD:SILVER TUNGSTEN BEAD
THORAX:RAINBOW DUBBING



GREAT FLY TO HAVE THIS TIME OF YEAR. DROP BEHIND WOOLLY BUGGER AND HAND ON.

SEE YA ON THE RIVER!!

Rainbow Warrior

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.



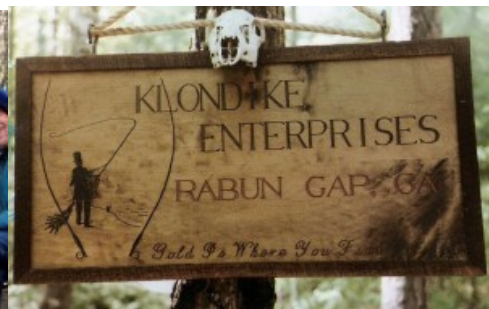
How's the river? Click on the name of the river to check water levels.

[Chattooga Level](#)

[Tallulah River Level](#)

[Nantahala](#)

[Little Tennessee](#)



September Hatches

THE BUGS	Time of Month	Time of Day	Suggested flies
None at all	All year	All Day	Dredging Nymphs: 12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, PT #14 Parachute Adams is always a good searching pattern
Midges	All year	All Day	18-22 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa
Terrestrials – Ants, Beetles, Crickets, Inch-Worms, Etc	Various Times & Sizes	Various Times & Sizes	Various Times & Sizes
Golden Stonefly	All month	Early AM	8 - 12 Ginger Stimulator 6 - 10 Golden Stonefly Nymph
Light Cahill Mayfly	All month	E to L pm	12-14 Light Cahill 12-14 Light Cahill Nymph
Trico Mayfly Trico Spinner Fall	Mid to Late	Mid AM to Late PM	20 Parachute Trico, Trico emerger 20-22 Poly Wing Black Spin- ner
Brown Stonefly	All month	Early to Mid AM	10-12 Brown Stonefly Nymph



Not quiet ready to be a fly fisher-
man? Try these alternatives for
catching trout.



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Passing It On

Subject: Unicoi Outdoor Adventure Day (Saturday, Sept 24, 2016)

<http://gastateparks.org/Unicoi>

It's that time of the year again! Interested volunteers should reply to my secretary, William Goldman (William.Goldman@dnr.ga.gov). He will draft the roster for me to edit as appropriate. William's phone: 770-535-5498, and fax 5953.

Call for Volunteers: Please consider volunteering to help us at Unicoi State Park's Outdoor Adventure Day to celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day on Saturday, 9/24/16. You don't have to be an expert outdoorsman or woman to play a vital role in the day's success. Can you help at registration or direct parking? There's a niche for everyone.

Unicoi State Park's management company, Coral Hospitality, hosts us, Game Management Supervisor Ken handles the budget, and I handle event staffing. We (DNR) need a hundred or so volunteers to make this event happen. Many of you are OAD veterans, but the following info may help prospective volunteers to understand the roles they could play and to make the decision to join our ranks. To fill out my roster and to ensure good communications with all of you volunteers, I would like the following info from each volunteer:

=====

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM [Or furnish this info]

- 1) Your name : _____
- 2) Your affiliation (if you'd like me to credit your group or club) : _____
- 3) email address: _____
- 4) phone number : _____

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First come, first served. The majority of the 10AM to 4 PM event is held along the creek downstream from Unicoi Dam (map: <http://gastateparks.org/net/go/parks...id=98&show=map>). Below is the narrative from previous years' volunteer instructions to help you understand the duties at each venue. Thanks for your consideration. We can't pull off this event without an army of vols!

Venue Info:

- Registration tent. These workers will greet visitors and get signed liability release forms and pens back from them in exchange for raffle tickets. Detailed instructions will be provided to you on Saturday (9/24), as Kim trains you. Visitors will be given an arm band as proof of signing the release form (so they can shoot).
- Raffle tent: . Visitors will put one copy of the raffle ticket into the raffle bucket of their choice and keep the other copy. The raffle will start at 1 PM for free prizes. I have a small, separate work force assigned to the raffle. Volunteers on my roster are eligible for prizes, also!
- Parking. Park staff will guide visitor vehicles to orderly parking in the big field. Parks staff also have a plan for overflow parking, if needed. They may need a few helpers to direct traffic and explain the venue layout to guests departing their vehicles.
- Archery. Hands-on. One-on-one instruction by WRD and hopefully the Traditional Bowhunters Association, once again. Note that this venue is on far side of Smith Creek, next to the laundry building. It can be reached by the road crossing up near the dam or by the footbridge over the creek to the group camp. Some of you may be asked to provide security. Just stand at edge of venue and prevent visitors from straying into the line of fire.
- Airgun. Hands on by WRD, 4-H Club, and other volunteers. Same as #4, and located next to it. Again, a few of you may secure the perimeter.
- Skeet. Handled mainly by well-trained DNR and USFS Rangers and Game Management Technicians. It's 500 yards downstream from the main event (safety, safety). A few of you may simply help at the sign-in tent and keep waiting guests away from the shooting area (no experience needed).
- Fishing tent. This is where visitors can exchange a driver's license for a loaner fishing pole and bait. Biologists, fishing guides, TU'ers, and other fibbers can answer questions and give fishing tips. Fisheries staff will need at least 6 helpers to stay at the tent to handle loaner rod untangling, knot-tying, bait distribution, and rod checkout. This is a busy, yet fun tent.
- Fly casting. Part of the field will be set aside for casting instruction. I suggest that volunteers bring a rod that they don't mind visitors tinkering with (DON'T BRING YOUR GOOD SAGE OR WINSTON!!!). I am venue leader for casting and tying. If you tie, bring your tying stuff with you, too.
- Fly tying instruction. Bring your supplies and an extra vise if you have one. Let visitors sit down at the table and tie his/her own fly to take home. Variations of the woolly worm (W. bugger, Anytime/Anywhere, etc.) or San Juan worm have worked well for me in the past. Kids love a gold bead and a big, gaudy fly. Girls love pink flies. Beads from craft store, yarn from Wal Mart. Cheap, easy, and fun for visitor. Many visitors are shy, so you may have to speak up and encourage youngsters to come over and tie their own fly.
- Fishing -stream helpers. Grab a pocket fishing kit (hooks and split shot) and some bait (corn) that WRD will supply and go help people fishing on stream. Search them out - look at stringers, tackle used, and forlorn faces. Find a kid and work with him/her for an hour or so on reading water, casting, setting hook, etc. Mentoring! Fishing is NOT restricted to kids only (parent has the driver's license, so they must be hooked, too). Feel free to bring some of your favorite baits to help your reputation as an awesome fishing guide. We will have about 100 loaner poles available, but feel free to bring an extra Zebco outfit if you have one to loan to your "student," since we made more than 300 loans at our last event. Some of you can help WRD staff stock creek around 9:45AM. Get some kids to help too - we're bringing buckets to get them involved.
- Wildlife and Camping venues. The experts pretty much run their own shows. Volunteers here will mainly help WRD staff with logistics needed by the demonstrators (tables, chairs, PR, food and water, etc).

Thanks for considering the donation of your Saturday to preserve the future of your sport! Please provide your information to William (William.Goldman@dnr.ga.gov) if you are interested in helping DNR to promote outdoor recreation and plant some seeds of conservation.

Sincerely,
Jeff

Jeff Durniak
Regional Fisheries Supervisor
Georgia Wildlife Resources Division

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Back Casting

Rabun TU's monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2016. DNR Smithgall Woods education specialist Kathy Church entertained a packed room split equally between seasoned Rabunites and energetic Boy Scouts. No cookies survived the meeting.

Kathy said that nobody can replace the legendary Sheila Humphrey, who retired last year, but Kathy and her young cohort are eager to make their own marks on north Georgia youth education. The duo has started with a blast and taught over 11,000 kids in only half a school



year!

With a Bachelors degree in wildlife management from UGA, a Masters in secondary science education from Piedmont College, and fifteen years of teaching experience, Kathy is fired up for her "dream job" at Smithgall. The two most popular programs so far with kids have been Stream Ecology and Wildlife.



Kathy said Rabunites can help her conservation education efforts by two means: donations and volunteers. She needs some cash to operate and instructors to help her when the busloads of kids assault Dukes Creek. She thanked Rabunites for all of our support thru the years.

Rabunites and friends can learn more and continue to support her programs by calling Kathy at 706-878-3087. Thanks for a great program and welcome to our watershed, Kathy!!!

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Chapter News

Tallulah River Handicap Fishing Pier is now under construction!!

WHAaaaaaaa WHOOoooooooooooo!!!!!!!

Construction began on the pier this past month. There will work days ahead that volunteers will be needed. So keep an eye on your emails and Rabun TU Facebook page so you can participate in this welcome addition to Tallulah River. The pier is being constructed currently by USFS personnel. The funds for the pier were donated by Rabun TU and the Georgia State TU Council. Each donated \$2500.00 Additional funds will be needed down the road. Our friends at Reeves Building Supply are suppling the lumber for the job at contractor's price along with other items that they are just donating outright. **If you would like to make a donation you can go by Reeves Building Supply and make a donation to be applied to the Handicap Pier fund. A plaque will be placed on the pier acknowledging everyone that helped bring to the pier to a reality.**



The Board of Directors offers the following nominations for Rabun TU Chapter's F/Y2017 Officers and Directors: President - Kent Wilson; Vice President - Wayne Prosser; Past President - Steve Perry; Treasurer - Joel Wise; Secretary - Kathy Breithaupt; (The Chapter by-laws requires annual election of officers) Nominees for Directors thru F/Y 2020: Tony Allred and Brian Weeks. (Replacing retiring Directors Jerry McFalls and Ray King); Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the Aug. & Sept. Chapter meetings. Election will be at the September Chapter meeting. F/Y 2020 begins October 1, 2016.

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News & Noteworthy



Wildlife Forever sponsors a State Fish art contest for kids every year. Their goal is at the heart of the State-Fish Art Program is creating the future stewards of our lakes, rivers, streams and oceans ... our precious aquatic resources. We believe that EDUCATION through Fish On leads to the ACTION of entering the Contest is a key to CREATING STEWARDSHIP! Check out the great artwork from kids across America. Major talent coming up in the future for sure. Also if you are an educator or know an educator please forward this information on so teachers across America can find out about this great program. We need to Pass It On in every way possible!!

Click here <http://www.wildlife forever.org/contest/winners/2016/4-12>

Fly fishing museum moves to Bryson City



The Fly fishing museum has had to move from their original location. Their new location is 15 miles down the road to Bryson City, NC. The new address is 210 Main Street, right across from the Swain County Visitor Center. The Grand Re-Opening Ribbon Cutting and Celebration is Friday, September 23, 2 pm. Then the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame Induction & Fly Fishing Museum Grand Re-Opening will be Saturday, September 24, 1 pm - 5 pm.

Join them for a double celebration in Bryson City, NC as they welcome the inaugural inductees into the Museum's Hall of Fame. The 2016 inductees include Jim Casada (Communications), Walter Cary (Crafts), Wanda Taylor (Recreation) and Phil Bracewell (Conservation). Tickets: \$35; kids under 16: \$20. Seating is limited to 120 so please reserve your place by calling 828-488-3681 or emailing info@flyfishingmuseum.org. Then the Museum will be open to the public September 26. Watch their progress from the facebook account [here](#).

NEED A MAP? National Geographic has a new PDF topo map web site that can help you out in a hurry. They are free and printable. For all the info click here:

<http://www.natgeomaps.com/trail-maps/pdf-quads>

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Fishing Reports

COMMUNITY NOT COINCIDENCE

FROM BEVERLY SMITH, via her TU NATIONAL BLOG ON AUGUST 15, 2016. On Friday afternoon, my family packed up our things and headed out after work to camp and fish for the weekend. As is my birthday tradition, we camp at the same place, a special campsite, tucked into some of Wyoming's National Forest Service land far away from cell phone range. We drove into this wild but sweetly familiar spot late on Friday. On Saturday morning, we woke up to the sounds of the river, bald eagles and Sandhill cranes. With a two-year old, camping mornings are a little slower than they used to be, particularly with frost covering the tent. But, as it was my birthday weekend, my husband stayed behind with our daughter so I could sneak away to wake up a few trout with a streamer. Photo evidence included here.

Walking back to camp, I hear, "Beverly?" I look up to see another tent that had arrived even later than us on Friday evening. Popping out from behind was Charlie Breithaupt, a longtime TU volunteer leader, current member of Trout Unlimited's Board of Trustees, and friend. Charlie drove into the campsite at around midnight with his good friend who was also from the Georgia upstate. Rabunites they are called. Charlie introduced me to Jim Kidd, who I would come to learn was one of the founders of the 522 – Rabun TU chapter in Georgia. Later that day, we were joined by Kyle Burrell, who was another founding member of this great Trout Unlimited chapter. We went our separate ways during the day to fish with plans to reunite over the campfire to tell tales of rising trout. The coincidence, I thought, of bumping into Charlie and his friends was just too odd. Recall that there are more pronghorn in Wyoming than there are people – and it's a big state. What are the chances? Around the campfire that evening, the coincidences just kept piling up.

I shared with Jim, Charlie and Kyle the story of how my family ended up coming to this part of the state. It's a long tale that (I thought) started out on the North Platte and involved my parents meeting the nicest people from Georgia. These people recommended our family check out this particular campsite. That was over 20 years ago, and we never got their names. However, we all recall that when they packed up camp, these Georgians would do this hooting and hollering thing that then became a tradition for our family. When telling this story to Jim and Kyle, they affirmed, "that was us!" Yes, really. This is the spot, "the Glory Hole" on the North Platte, where we met these Rabunites all that time ago.

It kept going. I explained that at a Trout Unlimited Southeast Regional Meeting I met Doug Adams, also of the 522 - Rabun chapter. And through a fairly quick conversation, we realized that he met "my uncle" Spencer some time in the 1970s while fishing on the Chattooga. This uncle is not actually related, but is such a dear family friend that we adopted the moniker.

Uncle Spencer is responsible for teaching my dad and their other dear friend, Rhett, (another "uncle" and my Godfather) the love of fly fishing. In college, my dad and my two uncles made their way out west to the North Platte in pursuit of trout.

What I didn't know was that back on the Chattooga, Uncle Spencer shared with Doug Adams his spot on the North Platte. Doug then brought his Rabunite fiends, Jim and Kyle along with him for many years. Flash forward to the 1990s, and my parents, my siblings, and Rhett's family were all camping on the North Platte when they met these Georgians (Kyle, Jim, and Doug) who told us to try this particular campsite on the other side of the state.

This pattern of events is responsible for so much in my life. It is how I ended up living in Jackson for the last 11 years. It's how I met my husband. How I established my lifelong passion for angling. And, how I ended up with the best job on the planet – working for Trout Unlimited.

With a sleeping two-year old in the back-seat, the silent drive home filled my head with these campfire conversations. It's not coincidence, I realized. It's community. This is our community. Our TU community. We TUers, we anglers and conservationists, care deeply about fish and fishing, but it's also clear we care deeply about people. Our local chapters are at the heart of that. The Rabun chapter is a stellar example of a chapter that builds community through events and activities, whether that's running a veterans service event, a family fishing day or a stream clean-up. People are at the heart of what this chapter is about.

The extension of that focus on community goes well beyond the upstate of Georgia, as I've shared. But, this isn't just happening to me. I hear it all the time. "It's a small world," they say. Perhaps, but I no longer think there's much serendipity involved at all. It's the organic, community nature of our chapters that has built this national-level network that for some, including myself, has proven to be life changing.

While there is no replacement for the in-person connections that are made while teaching a kid to fish or sharing stories around a campfire, I believe we're seeing a new outgrowth of this organic, community building with exciting new tools like the TU Online Community Forum. Just last week, I saw people who would have otherwise been totally disconnected making plans to fish together at the Annual Meeting in Bozeman. This may take the coincidence entirely out of it, but there's no doubt that this is community.

Beverly Smith, Proud member of the TU community



**NOTE: BEVERLY WILL BE OUR GUEST
SPEAKER AT THE 30TH ANNUAL
RABUN RENDEZVOUS ON SATURDAY
JANUARY 21, 2017!! MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!!**

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Fishing Reports

High Desert Fly Fishing in Utah and Wyoming

By: Peter Croes: This trip started during a fishing trip about 65 miles south of Chokoloskee, FL in the Everglades Ten Thousand Islands where I was fishing with a neighbor Andy Bean, predominantly for Snook. No one I have ever met is more passionate, enthusiastic and willing to share their knowledge regarding fishing techniques, nor fishing at every opportunity, be it for bass, specs, snook, or other species than Andy; euphemistically with a crankbait rod/reel, in a room full of wastebaskets he has the uncanny ability to select one to cast too and pull out either a snook or a largemouth bass, trout fishing is slightly more challenging!

After several more trips south and locally for Bass and specs the high temperatures, both ambient and water, brought the trip sharper into focus prompting us to consider Park City, UT as a base and we set plans into motion to fish the Weber River, the Strawberry (also known as the No Name or the Oasis), the Lower and Mid Provo, Hams Fork, and the Green River. All were in the High Desert Regions in Utah and Wyoming where there was no noticeable humidity, rain, and with winds generally in the 15 to 25+ mph!

As a flatlander (well south of Tallulah Falls) whose general elevation is from Sea Level to 125' (except when time is spent in the NE Georgia Mountains) I consider myself "generally" physically fit; then again breathing became and physical activity became a little more labored! Seven days of High Desert Fly Fishing made fishing every cast extremely important . . . especially when one considers the winds and water flow; and, it was a great physical activity for me in maintaining/appreciating my long-term balance, dexterity and muscle strength, and it help by keeping your brain sharp in those ripping flows.

I took two outfits: a 5WT Winston with its HATCH 4 PLUS Fanatic reel and a new 6WT Orvis Helios 2 outfitted with a NV-G 6/7 Nautilus. I only fished the 6WT with my NV-G 6/7 Nautilus which had the CCF Disc Brake system which was thoroughly broken-in, at least at the low end drag levels, by these big hard-fighting and head-shaking Browns . . . especially with a 5x RIO Fluroflex Plus Tippet; and the LayRight casting trainer I won during a Rabun TU Bucket Raffle which served the sole purpose of supporting my casting hand during both casting and fighting large Browns. With the size of these large Brown's I am a definite believer in smaller flies as those large fish had a very narrow feeding zone as opposed to the DINKS who had to be more aggressive in their feeding.

Day 1: We traveled from Orlando to Salt Lake City elevation 7,000' ++ and on to Park City (elevation 7,000' to probably over 8,000' since the elevation from the top of the ski lift down to our lodging was an additional vertical drop of 1,182'), check-in at our lodging, JANS Fly Shop & UT License, groceries, and dinner with our host Greg Christian and his wife Tanya.

Days 2 and 7: Greg, Andy and I were on the Weber River (Heber City/Coalville UT elevation 5,604') where we fished, on both days behind our friend and guides house Travis Vernon (who fished -and guided us- with us on day 7). This was strictly, at least from all of the fish hooked/caught/landed a Brown Trout angler's dream. The water flow was about 600 cubic feet per second (CFPS) and the water was Gin clear in the shallower areas we fished from with a dark trough on the far side where the huge browns congregated/lived and selectively dined. The river was about 20 to 30 yards wide for the most part and it was deep droppers with a Sowbug (#26 & #30) as the top choice below a Prince Nymph. Travis estimated this stretch of the rivers population at about 2,000 plus per mile!

These browns were very select as the underside of every rock you picked up and turned over was covered with Sowbugs and leaches; and the shallower water we waded was beautiful with its horsehair grass; and yes, the fish loved to wrap up every chance they have to break off the 5x tippet. On one unsuccessful landing I hooked one of the big boys/horses/toads on this section of the Weber . . . once he realized that the Sowbug he had just eaten had a strand of 5x dental floss attached to it and the fight was on . . . I had my rod tip high and bent downstream and he kept dragging out 2, 3, 4, or more feet for every foot I was able to retrieve. Finally, he had fought his way upstream until my Bimini knot was about through the rod tip before he took a breather and I reeled like hell as he came back in front and we all thought it was time to net him although it was a quick whistle stop for this aquatic locomotive and he took off repeating the same scenario downstream Removing all of the line he had previously taken upstream.

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This Brown thoroughly tested the NV-G's CCF Disc Brake system's low end drag levels with its hard-fighting, jumps and head-shaking runs . . . especially with a 5x RIO Fluroflex Plus Tippet . . . I did what I had to do and he did what he had to do to avoid the net; somehow, we both came out winners only I with a memory which will only grow and he the, if fish have it, the thrill of a heavy-weight fight and a great escape!

After, what seemed to be 4 days, fifteen hours and untold minutes, Andy missed getting close enough to net him and Travis surely thought he was ready to net; but, as fate would have it he got a firm grasp leader touch and the big Brown found another burst of energy when the net went toward him and he vanished like a departing Barracuda!

These Browns would lie in the grass and feed what washed thru their narrow feed zone; or if they were hooked within the deeper pools had no problems stripping line while running downstream, or even upstream, looking for any way to break off or dislodge the hook; and their favorite trick was to swim into the grass tying up your line and eventually breaking off or causing the hook over the dropper (if that was where they were hooked) or to become dislodged -if hooked on the first fly- when the dropper entangled in the horsehair grass.

Other than the great fishing locations was a memorable moment when a black Mink come out of the rocks where I was sitting tying on a broken-off dropper and meandered across my boots as I sat on a rock. it momentarily stopped and looking up at me as if to say WHAT YOU LOOKING AT, THIS IS MY FISHING SPOT! He/she was the only one -knowingly- allowed to keep their catch. The Weber River, based on Day 7's catches would probably be rated as my 2nd best day on this trip; Andy caught more fish here than me and the last fish of the trip after I retired removing my waders and boots for the last time on this trip.

After fishing the Weber, on day 2 with Greg as our guide, we made a quick trip down to the restored section of the Provo although no one caught any fish, due to overcrowded conditions with anglers coupled with diminishing daylight and a the fatigue of a long flight and 2 hour time zone differential and significantly higher altitude; and, earlier fishing that day relegated us to a few bank casts with a couple of break offs in the trees in that section we fished. The water was also running about 600 CFPS in the narrow winding portion we fished.

Day 3: Greg, Andy, Travis and I traveled to the Strawberry River (eastern Duchesne, UT elevation 5,518') in the Wasatch Mountains of the western Uintah Basin), referred to by the guides as the No Name or The Oasis . . . or as Rabunites like to say with reference to a fishing spot I don't believe I said! We fished above the Indian Tribe's section (they never returned a call to their Tribal Office seeking information on a fishing permit and did not want to risk getting caught and face a Tribal Court . . . especially when there were signs saying "No F'ng" Whites allowed); and hiked in above the trophy section for a great day of fishing.

Once again, the water was gin clear, fish could be readily observed clearly on the bottom (4' to 6' at about 600 CFPS) and precise casting, and drifts were required. Travis reinforced the Dredgers casting lessons firmly instilling letting the rod do the work; and keep the rod tip low and pointed toward the strike indicator; and make one large mend as the indicator floats down when it gets in front of you!

My first Brown was a very healthy 21" and beat the 17 1/2 " I caught with the Dredger above HWY 28, and my largest that day was about 23" specimen who continually demonstrated his repeatable ability to strip line off for about 10 minutes; and the day progressed others demonstrated their similar willingness to take a fly if properly presented repeating the same scenario . . . Wahoooooo fish on and landed! Andy's biggest Brown was about 23" or 24 1/2" and, a fighting head shaking and drag pulling beautiful specimen.

Travis, Greg and Andy were fishing downstream, on the other side of the river, around several bends and out of sight while I spent

the last hour of that day in a long sweeping bend where I hooked-up five fish nice Browns landing three of them before beginning the treacherous cross back across to the other side, very tired and satisfied following a very successful day, in a 600 to 700 flow in 2' to 2 1/2' deep water.

Then a hike back to stop at the Duchesne Sinclair station to get something to eat for dinner on the long drive back to Kemmer, WY where J. C. Penney's first store was and is marked accordingly. Wahoo, I would, without hesitation, have to rate this as my best day of fly-fishing on this High Desert trip; and, according to the guide Travis the worst danger to this top fishery and other similar fisheries -such as the no name or the oasis- come from catch photos taken tagged with geotagging information . . . then everyone knows the exact location, at least within a few feet.



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Day 4: was a return to the Lower and Mid-Provo River in Utah where this rivers top to bottom elevation runs from 10,448' to its lowest elevation, of 4,485'. Andy and I scouted for a place to fish in the lower section finally settling on a "park" where kayaks put in so we parked at the other end and began our wade into a grassy section . . . we did not fish for long as each step sank into the river bed taking the grasses under our feet with them, and we abandoned the lower Provo heading back up the Interstate for a section of the Mid-Provo where we frequently observed cars pulled off along the river. We were willing to risk the supposed \$20.00 ticket for decent fishing. We had a steep descent although we did get to fish catching some Rainbow dinks, on Sowbugs, in fast flowing water although it was a challenging game of stealth fishing. At the end of the day, as we were removing our waders and boots a Sheriff drove by and waived to us!

Day 5: was on the Hams Fork River (Diamondville, UT elevation 6,893') and it was memorable, not for the fishing as I was skunked, but for the vast area on this parcel of land. It had the Car section, and the Drunkard Hole . . . unfortunately only one fish was landed by our group of three . . . there were eleven (11) other people fishing on this pay to fish private section although the fish that did hit the fly did so on the swing and were only doing so on tiny #24 and #26 midges. The other guide, While back at the parking area we had started up a charcoal fire in the small Webber grill to steam, reheat some pulled pork and sausage for dinner before returning back to the halfway point, at the Hotel 8 in Kemmer, where we staying at for the next day's fishing at the Green. While preparing the fire the daughter of the lady who owned the land as far -as you could see in all directions- came by to check/retrieve funds left the box where you signed in your party providing the no. in your party, make of the car, and its license plate information and left your \$10.00 per head in the box.

We began a pleasant conversation with her and asked her about the property and she simply stated that the only reason they charge for fishing is to cover the cost of having help police the river for debris/litter left by people who, in my opinion, should not be fishing in the first place! Leave no trace behind!

Day 6: we drove to Wyoming, stopped at Walmart to obtain our 2-day license and then drove to the Green River in Wyoming (elevation 6,100') and it would be predominately all Rainbows. We drove 65 to 75 miles past the last house/barn in the Wyoming wilderness passing wind farms and Exxon oil fields before we turned into the access point/campground which was open-range with cattle milling around the campers; fortunately we drove about a half mile downstream where Andy, Greg, and I fished with our guide Travis.

As our guide Travis said, it was my day: I caught the biggest fish, the most fish (11) and the smallest Rainbow . . . about four or five inches and my ribs are finally starting to recover from the ribbing I received; but, numbers are numbers and they speak for themselves. The water was running around 700 CFPS and split around a very productive island into about a 300 and 400 CFPS Split before joining back together. A couple of very early Kokanee (lacustrine sockeye salmon) were spotted as they swam up river to the dam to spawn.

An interesting observation, both up and down river, was that none of the drift boats was catching any fish as far as we could observe. Again, all of the fish I caught were on a dropper (6' to 7' below the strike indicator) with double BB lead 2' above the dropper for a proper trailing drift. It was a great day for everyone as we retired back to the car to remove our gear and eat some more pulled pork sandwiches before the long drive back to Park City, UT.

This trip was truly a blessing and dream come true . . . perhaps the best fishing trip I have ever experienced. I owe its success Jeanie's encouragement as well as the formative help received from Jeff, Terry, and Wayne in NE Georgia; Andy and our patient guide Travis Vernon.

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Membership News & Updates

Current membership: 174 members, 26 life members, and 8 stream explorers.

Thanks for re-upping your membership: Mike Addington, Carl & Kathy Kleinstuber, June Landreth, James Nixon, Tom Shirley and Dwayne Thompson.

Time to renew your membership: Charles Cawthon, Doug Mansfield, Derek Porter and Ron Wilson.

Our condolences go out to Sid Berkstresser and his family on the loss of his mother on August 25, 2016. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers in the days ahead. Cards can be mailed to 1081 Laurel Lane, Hiawassee, Ga. 30546.



Our youngest member showed up to her first meeting back in August. If you want to meet sweet little Katherine Weeks, just start coming to the meetings. She will be back for many more !!



Visit us on
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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.

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Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2016

Voting Board

President Steve Perry	Nominating Committee Chair , Project Healing Waters, BOD Agenda, Budget	(828)-371-1633	flygide@gmail.com
Vice President Kent Wilson	Mack Martin Rod Raffle, Property Manager	706-746-7488	kandwilson@windstream.net
Treasurer Joel Wise	Reports & Budget	706-782-7538	jwise@windstream.net
Secretary Kathy Breithaupt	BOD Minutes, Correspondence, Records	706- 782-6954	knc615@windstream.net
Past President Pat Hopton	Social Media & Leadership Support & Dream Trip Ticket Sales	706-782-4978	scotts_creek58@yahoo.com
Director - 2016 Jerry McFalls	Liaison with Local Scouts, Stream Projects, Safety Coordinator, Trout in the Classroom & Annual Indian Lake Cookout	706-782-8357	threeforksadventures@hotmail.com
Director - 2016 Ray King	Rabun Rendezvous, Audio- Visual Set Up	828-349-2786	raving@frontier.com
Director - 2017 Terry Rivers	Fly Tying Workshops	706-782-7419	tlr1121@windstream.net
Director - 2017 Charlie Breithaupt	Trout Camp, Fly Fishing 101	706-782-6954	knc615@windstream.net
Director - 2018 Mike Fuller			david2053@windstream.net
Director - 2018 Frank Tolbert	Media Outreach		frankdavidtolbert@gmail.com
Director - 2019 Ray Gentry			
Director - 2019 David Ruth			

Non Voting Leaders :

Michele Crawford	Tight lines Editor, Women's Out- reach, Memorials	706-490-4574	crawfordart@windstream.net
Larry Walker	Advocacy Director		
Jeff Durniak	Meeting Programs & hosting speaker to dinner	706-892-6576	jeffdurniak@yahoo.com
Sid Berkstresser	Chairman of Membership Re- cruitment & Retention		sidberk3@windstrem.net

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