



TIGHT LINES

March 2005 Newsletter of the

Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited

"The two best times to fish is when it's rainin' and when it ain't"

Patrick F. McManus



At the [Green River Guest Ranch](#) near Pinedale, Wyoming

Rules: Winner will be drawn at the Georgia Foothills Chapter of Trout Unlimited annual banquet on March 5th 2005. One winner will be drawn and the winner will choose a partner to accompany them on the trip**.

Raffle Tickets are \$10 each. Proceeds go to the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited to help fund our annual Youth Fly-Fishing Camp and the "Back the Brookie" campaign that will help Brook Trout restoration and educational projects.

The winner and their partner will EACH receive the following:

- > 5 days fishing and 6 nights food and lodging at the Green River Guest Ranch near Pinedale, WY. One of the Fishing Days will be a float trip on the Upper Green River guided by either Butch Martin or Kyle "Hoover" Burrell.
- > The trip will take place from July 23 to July 29, 2005 (NON NEGOTIABLE).
- > An Orvis Battenkill Barstock Reel with line and backing.
- > A 9ft.5 wt. Winston Boron II X custom made fly rod by Mack Martin of North Georgia Custom Rods.
- > A fly box and flies for the trip (approx. 5 to 7 dozen flies per box).
- > \$250 each toward airfare and travel expenses.

NOTE: Travel arrangements will be the responsibility of the winner and their partner. They must arrive together to be picked up at the airport. If the winner and their partner choose to fly in to any destination other than Jackson, they will be responsible to get to and return from the guest ranch on their own.

*Fishing licenses, gratuities, and alcoholic beverages during their stay are the responsibility of the winner and their partner. **The winner and their partner will be required to sign a waiver releasing the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited, TU National, and the Green River Guest Ranch of any liability of injury that could occur during the trip. Get your tickets now from any TU Chapter President - or buy your tickets at the 'Hoot on the Hooch'!

**Give a man a fish, and you will feed him for a day.
Teach a man to fly-fish; and he will go West of Hiwassee every summer!**

"I don't know exactly what fly-fishing teaches us, but I think it's something we need to know"
John Gierach

THE CHAPTER MEETING PLACE!

Clayton Presbyterian Church - Clayton, GA
3rd Tuesday of the Month 6:30 pm - Fellowship 7:00 pm – Meeting & Program

**Beginning with the March Chapter meeting there will be a raffle for fishing or camping stuff..
Bring a dollar or two - you might win something!**

Fishing is life. The rest is just details.

"FORWARD CASTING" Important Dates - See you there!

March 5 - Georgia TU Council Meeting in Dahlonoga, GA. 9:00 am

March 5 - Hoot on the Hooch! Sautee Community Center, 6:00 pm Come support the Foothills Chapter! Dream trip raffle drawing tonight!

March 8 - Fly Tying with Terry Rivers at his home near Persimmon; 7:00 pm
Call or email for directions (706) 782- 7419 tlr1121@alltel.net

March 15 - Chapter Meeting – Clayton Presbyterian Church (Rec Room)
6:30 - Social (Story Telling – you don't have to believe 'em if you don't want to)
7:00 **Program** – Terry Seehorn: *Genetic Typing of the Local Brook Trout & the Ramey Creek 'Back the Brookie' Project*

March 17-20 - Fishing & Camping at the Tallulah River with Camping at a USFS C.G. (with outhouse & tables). Contact Charlie B. (706) 782-6954 or Terry R. (706) 782- 7419 tlr1121@alltel.net as they are planning the cooking!

March 22 - Board of Directors meeting at 7:00 pm, followed by **Fly Tying** at Terry River's house.

March 26 - Clean up of Betty Creek; 9:00 am Meet at the Creek behind the Dillard Methodist Church

March 29 - More Fly Tying at Terry's

April 8-9 - Campout and Work Project - Ramey Creek, Details at March 15th Chapter Meeting

April 19 - Chapter Meeting – Program Details in the April newsletter

April 26 - Board of Directors meeting - location TBA (Probably on a stream bank)

April 29, 30 & May 1 - 4th Annual S.E. Regional Rally in Abington, VA

REMEMBER TROUT CAMP! June 12-17th! We need you to mentor our campers – put it on your calendar!

FLY OF THE MONTH



GRIFFITH'S GNAT

By TERRY RIVERS

Quick and easy: a great fly for the novice to get started on, kinda like a small, no-tail, floating woolly-bugger. No fly box would be complete without two in a range of sizes. It's versatile; you can float it, skate it, clip the bottom and emerge it, or sink it. I'm sure it has been sucked in, gulped in, slashed at and refused as much as any other great fly. We'll be tying it at the first tying session at my place, be there if interested – March 8th at 7PM.

Hook: TMC 101, sizes 14-22;
Thread: Olive 6/0; Rib: Fine Gold Wire (optional); Body: Peacock Hurl; Hackle: Grizzly or Blue Dun Palmered.

"I spent the entire dream fishing a single Griffith's gnat." Harry Middleton in *Rivers of Memory* (1993)

March Hatches

The Bugs	Time of Month	Time of Day	Suggested Flies
Early Black Stone	All Month	L am to M pm	18 Henryville Special 16-18 Black Stone Nymph
Small Dun Caddis (Important)	All Month	L am to M pm	18 Henryville Special 18 Grey Caddis Pupa
Blue Winged Olive & Blue Quill	All Month	L am to M pm	16-18 BWO, Blue Quill or Adams Parachute 16-18 BWO nymph or Pheasant Tail
Quill Gordon (Important)	All Month	L am to M pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph
Cream Caddis (Important)	Late	M day to L pm	12-14 Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Red Quill (Hendrickson)	Mid to Late	M day to L pm	14-16 Red Quill or Hendrickson 14-16 Pheasant Tail
March Brown (very Important)	Late	L am to M pm 10-14 March Brown Nymph, Dark Hare's Ear, or Pheasant Tail	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute
Midges	All Month	M am to L pm	18-20 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa

"If fishing interferes with your business, give up your business - the trout don't rise in Greenwood Cemetery"
Sparse Grey Hackle in *Fishless Days* (1954)

"BACKCASTING"

Jan. 22 The 18th Annual Rabun Rendezvous What a great night! A well deserved award for Doug Watson, our friend at the Forest Service, "For 25 years of outstanding personal service and leadership in the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the cold water fisheries in the Tallulah Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest." Thanks Doug. And for our own Doug Adams, a special presentation commemorating his Distinguished Service Award from TU National. In spite of the cold temperature, the freezing rain, and the snow we still had 222 Rabunites, Friends, and Supporters in attendance. The 2005 Rendezvous cleared an estimated \$8895 and the cash donations bring the total funds raised to \$9845. Another great Rabun Rendezvous. A BIG thanks to everyone that contributed and to all the guys and gals that worked so long and hard to make it a successful fundraiser event for the benefit of our cold-water resources. It was a lot of fun. **Waaaaah Hooooo!!!!**

Feb. 5 The Annual Planning Meeting The meeting was attended by 13 members and 2 more members submitted their input by E-mail. The total budgeted expenditures for 2005 is \$11,300 disbursed in 25 line items.

Feb. 15 Chapter Meeting Our own Jeff Durniak presented a motivating program on 'Mentoring'. As a result, the Rabunites will offer mentoring at all of our future fishing outings where an experienced fly-fishing angler will work with anyone that wants to learn the basics of fly-fishing for trout. This would involve discussing necessary equipment, how to rig it, how to cast, and time together on a trout stream to actually try fishing. All this FOR FREE!

Feb. 22 Board of Directors Meeting The board has lined up quarterly fishing-camping outings. All four outings will be local and all will be 4 or 5 days long. Come when you can, stay as long as you wish. All will offer fly-fishing for trout mentoring. The first will start on Thursday and run through Sunday (March 17th -20th) on the Tallulah River at one of the USFS campgrounds. Details at the Chapter Meeting on March 15th.

There will be 5 in-stream work outings, three of those with camping. The first work outing is March 26 on Betty Creek. The board also selected interesting programs for all the remaining 2005 chapter meetings. There will be 3 fly tying sessions in March. See "Forward Casting" section for more details. A nominating committee was appointed to bring a new slate of chapter officers for next fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2005. The board also decided to conduct bucket raffles at chapter meetings to fund the mailing of monthly newsletters to our members without E-mail.

Bill Kelly was Re-Kneed Bill had his right knee replaced on Feb.16th and he seems to be doing just fine. He said the doctor told him it would be 6 months before he could put his full weight on it. This will be the first spring in over 50 years that we have a chance to fish THE RIVER in front of Kelly. If you want to wish him a full (and somewhat slow) recovery: Bill Kelly, 204 Zack Dillard Lane, Dillard, GA 30537 Phone: 706 746 2104 E-mail: bkjk1@alltel.net

I spend most of my life fishing; the rest I just waste.

Chattooga Q & A

Q. I usually fish downstream of Burrell's Ford or at the Thrift Lake area. Haven't fished the delayed harvest section since it became a delayed harvest section. I've never caught (or seen) a fish over 11 inches. I know large browns exist throughout the Burrell's Ford area and further upstream, but I'm told they are pretty tough to catch in the daytime. My question is, are there larger rainbows as well? That is, fish that have been in the river a year or more. Or are large rainbows generally recently stocked fish that have been put in at the bridges? I'd fish the Chattooga a lot more if I believed the larger fish were there and it was only my lack of patience or talent that is keeping me from hooking them. Thanks, Dwight Moffitt (SC Angler & TU Member)

A. Big rainbows really don't exist in the Chattooga except for some Walhalla Hatchery stockers (13-17 inches, sometimes 20+) in the DH section. You'll get an occasional 13-14 inch holdover, especially if we've had a cool, wet summer that allows the river below Big Bend Falls to stay cold enough for trout survival. I base this on our nearly 20-year history of river electro-fishing with great biologists like Dan Rankin (SC) and lots of TU bucket toters to help us.

We biologists think that wild rainbows aren't in there because of the sandy substrate that limits spawning success. Both rainbows and most browns don't grow big (I'm talking % of populations now, not individual fish) because of the low alkalinity that limits aquatic insect production.

What rainbows lack in size, they make up for in numbers and catchability. They "fuel" the daytime fishery, when browns seem nonexistent. If you use an ultralight spinner or a 3 or 4 weight fly rod, the 10 and 11 inch rainbows are a lot of fun. Plus, you're fishing in one of the prettiest places in the East. Go back to "the Steps", a mile below BF, in March and throw a caddis dry with a Prince dropper. And by all means, hit the DH. It's a blast.

The best fish are those wild browns. I've only caught them via rod/reel up to 14 inches myself, but we've shocked them up to about 27 inches. They just don't bother much with a size 16 dry fly. Throw some calories at them (woolly bugger, crayfish, Rapala) where they live (deep pools or places with cover, like boulders) and you can tempt them from the groundhog hole. Bounce your offering off the rocks and get it deep. If you bait's 3 feet away, they won't come out. Kyle Burrell's ("Hoover" on ngto.org) Clemson thesis (brown trout telemetry) showed that the wild browns are groundhogs. They only poke their noses out of their holes under rocks and logs for about a half hr at sunrise and sunset, and after a rain that clouds up the water.

Hope this helps return you to the river. Get to know it again. Soon you'll be past the Snoopy pole stage (a great experience in itself) and will show your best fishing friend HIS river, one that he will have to take care of when you and I are "fishing some distant waters."

Good luck. Sincerely, Dredger (a.k.a. Jeff Durniak – GA WRD N.E. Regional Fisheries Supervisor)

"Often, I've been exhausted on trout streams, uncomfortable, wet, cold, briar-scarred, sunburned, mosquito-bitten, but never, with a fly-rod in my hand, have I been unhappy." Charles Kuralt

A Chattooga DH Fishing Report

Fished the Chattooga DH Saturday afternoon (Feb. 12) with a couple of friends and we had a great afternoon. Caught fish from the get-go until we walked out in the dark. A couple of fish taken on brown woolly buggers, one on Y2K and two on prince; every other fish was taken on a peach egg. Some fish were caught in shallow runs and riffles (2' – 3' deep) but most were very deep. At one point I was fishing 5 size AB split shot on a twelve foot leader. One pool was so deep the entire leader, strike indicator and 10 feet of my floating fly line were under water. I caught three fish in that hole and lost two more. I'm confident that, had I been fishing a 9' leader and a beadhead fly even with a split shot, I would have gone right over all those fish. Water was gin clear and 43 degrees. Two brookies, the rest rainbows up to 16" or 17". If you've not been there lately, you're really missing something. We couldn't have asked for more perfect weather and, yet, there were only 7 cars in the parking lot when we arrived. Some of those folks were leaving shortly after we arrived. Only two other anglers stayed as late as our group. Five anglers on over 2 miles of river. I've said it before, but the Chattooga, in my opinion, is one of the most beautiful rivers in the entire country. And the fishing is great!

Jimmy Harris (Owner of Unicoi Outfitters in Helen, GA and a member of Foothills TU)

"I object to fishing tournaments less for what they do to fish than what they do to fishermen"
Ted Williams (1984)

“More BACKCASTING”

If you missed the February 15th Rabun TU meeting you missed a great program on ‘MENTORING’ presented by our own Jeff Durniak. The following article is copied (or you might say stolen) from the Feb. 2005 Newsletter (The Korn Dunker) of the Cohutta Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

February 24th Chapter Meeting: This month’s speaker will be Jeff Durniak, DNR Northeast Regional Fisheries Supervisor. His subject will be mentoring and fishing Georgia NE streams. An avid fisherman himself, his first fish was a stunted pumpkinseed in a city pond before his third birthday. He has been trout fishing since about age 10 and took up a fly rod at age 12. He figured out how to catch fish on the fly rod about age 14, after finally setting aside the Mitchell 408 ultra-light spinner.

Grew up in NJ, catching trout in the mornings and sometimes bluefish on the coast in the same afternoon. Jeff still goes home to chase stripers in the surf for a week each November. He is very proud of his fishing buddy up there, who is the GA trout map poster boy! (Patrick Gorman, member of the Rabun TU Chapter).

Jeff fed his fishing addiction by going to VA Tech for a BS and UT-Knoxville for an MS degree. Studied in between fishing trips to Jefferson National Forest, New River, Outer Banks, and the Smokies. From UT, he came to GADNR in 1985 and, stationed at Burton Hatchery. At the hatchery worked as a trout biologist for 10 years and promoted to NE regional supervisor in 1995. Along with a great staff of folks like Bill Couch and Lee Keefer, manages a 16 county region that includes nine major reservoirs (Lanier to Hartwell to Nottely), two trout hatcheries, and the majority of the state’s trout waters.

Jeff is proud of his distinction of being one of the dozen founding members of the Rabun TU Chapter. One of his many honors is being a graduate of the Bill Kelly School of Angler Communication.

As Jeff recently stated, “That thirty pound brown trout I caught on 8X tippet last week in north GA was the highlight of my fishing days in GA. The stream I caught it in was, well, I don’t believe I said.” (This makes Doug Adams a very happy angler).

Jeff states that he has enjoyed the cooperative working relationship we have fostered, together, among GADNR, the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the power companies, and volunteer groups like Trout Unlimited. Jeff also stated that it has been a fun career of working with GA citizens to conserve their fisheries resources and teaching a few of them, young and old, how to catch more trout!

Written by Sonny Marshall of the Cohutta Chapter

“Fishermen are born honest, but they get over it.” Ed Zern in *To Hell with Fishing* (1954)

Rabunite Terms Used On THE RIVER by Jim Nixon & Doug Adams

1. HIPOLUM	immediate removal of the fish from the water
2. RAISDUM	the fish just came up to look, no contact
3. BURNDUM	definite contact with the fish
4. UNCAPPED	fish getting off after at least 0.5 seconds of play
5. LONG-LINE-RELEASE	fish released prior to netting or fondling
6. HORSUM	identified by a piece of fish lip on the hook
7. BROKOFF	a defective hook or a tree in the wrong place
8. CHOPPER	trout stocked by a helicopter
9. DUMPLIN	fresh stock trout dumped from the bridge
10. SIDEWINDER	stock trout with some fins missing
11. DRIFTER	stock trout with <u>all</u> of its fins missing
12. GOODUN	any trout
13. KEEPER	same as GOODUN
14. NICE FISH	the ‘flatlander’ term for GOODUN
15. BANKER	any fish other than a trout, deposit it on the bank
16. West-of-Hiawasse	more good places to fish, like the ‘DREAM TRIP’ Where? “I don’t believe I said.”

Scoring

90 – 100%	Master Angler or a Rabunite Guide, soars with the Ospreys
80 – 89%	Accomplished Angler, Fishes with a Rabunite Guide
70 – 79%	Typical Angler, Fishes Behind the Rabunite Guide
60 – 69%	WannaBe Angler, Watches others fish while carrying lunches & cameras
Less than 60%	Just a plain ole ‘flatlander’

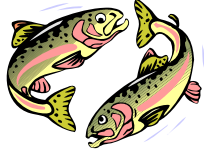
One more question:
What is the Rabunite Hog-Call?
Waaaaah Hooooo!!!!

MEMBERSHIP

A Big Rabunite welcome to 2 new members this month: **John Starinchuck**, PO Box 96, Tiger, GA 30576-0096
And **Bob Johnson**, 208 Jacob Hunter Lane, Ellijay, GA 30536-6956

Rabun TU Officers & Directors

President	Ray Kearns	Phone 706 782 9913	E-Mail pndmilck@alltel.net
Vice President	Tom Matthews	Phone 706 782 0369	E-Mail tmatt@hemc.net
Treasurer	Russell Johnson	Phone 706 783 2424	E-Mail rwjrabun@alltel.net
Secretary	Russell Burken	Phone 706 779 5597	E-Mail mkopchic@alltel.net
Past President	Charlie Breithaupt	Phone 706 782 6954	E-Mail knc615@direcway.com
Directors	Kathy Breithaupt, Tom Landreth, Doug Adams, Terry Rivers, Terry Seehorn, Bill Kelly, Ralph Morgan		



News from the President..... Ray Kearns

Hi Folks,

The TU Chapter officers and board members met on Feb. 24 for an Activities Planning Meeting. A lot of good ideas for the coming year were discussed. The ones that will be implemented will be posted on our web site. I hope many of our members will be able to participate in some if not all of the events.

Thanks to Terry Rivers and Doug Adams we will have a new articles titled "The Fly of the Month" and "The Current Hatch", for our local streams. This should help you select the right fly to catch the "big one".

How would you like to have a personal fly-fishing instructor work with you one on one showing you the basics of fly-fishing for trout? This would involve discussing equipment, how to rig it, how to cast, and a visit to a trout stream to actually fly fish. ALL FOR FREE. You will have that chance when the chapter has one of our camping and fishing events, four of which are planned for this year on different streams. How's that for a mentoring program? If you need help with equipment, casting, etc. **please ask**. We are here to help.

One other item I would like to touch on is membership. We need new members. Talk about TU to anyone you think would be interested and let them know we will help them get started in fly fishing if they need it.

I see the bugs are starting to fly and temperature is rising so it's time to get your equipment ready to fish and camp. Our first outing will be March 17, 18 and 19 on the Tallulah River. Lots of good fishing, eating, fellowship and fun. Plan to be there.

PS: Good Luck on your raffle tickets. Hopefully someone from the Rabun Chapter will be going to Wyoming in July.

For pictures and more info, visit the Rabun TU website: <http://www.rabuntu.com/>

Georgia TU Council website: <http://georgiatu.org/> or National TU Website: <http://www.tu.org/index.asp>

We would love to get your suggestions, stories, articles, and questions for our panel of experts in the Q & A section, or your comments about our Website and Newsletter.

Send them to: edadams1@alltel.net Or to: Rabun TU, PO Box 65, Rabun Gap, GA 30568

Please tell us if you have E-mail, it will save us the printing & postage costs:

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