



TIGHT LINES February 2007 Newsletter of the

Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited

Editor – Doug Adams edadams1@alltel.net
Visit the Rabun TU website: <http://www.rabuntu.com/>

"Calling fishing a hobby is like calling brain surgery a job." Paul Schullery

CHAPTER'S MEETING PLACE

Community Bank & Trust, On US 441 next to Ingles, Clayton, GA

We meet in the Community Room (Outside Entrance on South Side)

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.

"Soon after I embraced the sport of angling I became convinced that I should never be able to enjoy it if I had to rely on the cooperation of the fish." From Fishless Days, Angling Nights by Sparse Grey Hackle (Alfred E. Miller)

"FORWARD CASTING" Important Dates - See you there!

Feb 3 (Sat) Annual Planning Meeting, 8 AM, Breakfast Meeting at the Dillard House. All Rabun TU members are invited.

Feb 6 (Tues) Fly Tying, 7 pm, with Terry Rivers in his shop at his home near Persimmon; Call or email for directions (706) 782 7419 tlr1121@alltel.net

Feb 13 (Tues) Fly Tying, 7 pm, with Terry Rivers in his shop near Persimmon

Feb 20 (Tues) Chapter Meeting, 6:30 PM, Community Bank and Trust
Program: – Nicole Hayler: *The Stekoa Creek Monitoring Project*

Feb 27 (Tues) Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, followed by **Fly Tying** in Terry Rivers' shop.

Mar 6 (Tues) Fly Tying, 7 pm, with Terry Rivers in his shop near Persimmon

Mar13 (Tues) Fly Tying, 7 pm, with Terry Rivers in his shop near Persimmon

Mar 17 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting 9 AM at Vanna Bar-B-Que in Vanna, GA

Mar 20 (Tues) Chapter Meeting, 6:30 PM, Community Bank and Trust
Program: – TBD

Mar 24 (Sat) Hoot on the Hooch, 6:30 pm. Foothills TU Chapter event in the banquet hall at the Helendorf Inn (in Helen, of course). Bluegrass, Bar-B-Que and more! The dream trip raffle drawings will take place.

Mar 27 (Tues) Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, followed by **Fly Tying** in Terry Rivers' shop.

REMEMBER – 2007 GEORGIA TROUT CAMP! June 10 through 15th!
We need you to mentor our campers – put it on your calendar!

FLY OF THE MONTH

by Terry Rivers



ZUGBUG

USE THIS FLY AS A DROPPER DURING THE FALL AND WINTER FISHING. IT WAS A GREAT FLY THIS FALL FOR ME AND AT OUR NOVEMBER CAMPOUT. FISH IT AT THE RIGHT DEPTH AND DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE I DID AND USE LIGHT WEIGHT TIPPET, I RECOMMEND 4 TO 5 LB. I LOST SOME NICE FISH IN THE 15" TO 20" RANGE. SEE YOU ALL ON THE RIVER

HOOK: 12 TO 18 DRY FLY HOOK
TAIL: 3 OR 4 PEACOCK HERL 1/2 LENGTH OF HOOK SHANK
BODY: 3 TO 4 PEACOCK HERLS TWISTED AND PALMERED (WEIGHTED HOOK SHANK OPTIONAL). ALSO PALMER SILVER TINSEL OVER PEACOCK BODY
HEAD: BRASS BEAD OR TIE WITH THREAD HEAD
LEGS: BROWN SADDLE HACKLE
WINGCASE: WOOD DUCK FLANKS OR TURKEY FEATHER

To aim flies at humans is to make fly-tying an art, or least a clever craft. I have no philosophical objection to this. Certainly trout flies are decorative, and Salmon Flies more so. To make a fly well requires skill. With all these attributes, it is inevitable that flies should be tied for reasons other than fishing.

From What the Trout Said by Datus Proper

February 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
Winter Black Stone	All Month	L am to M pm	18-20 Black Elk-hair Caddis or Griffith's Gnat 16-18 Black Stone Nymph or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Small Dun Caddis	Late	L am to M pm	18 Brown Elk-hair or Deer-hair Caddis 18 Hair's Ear Nymph
Blue Winged Olive & Blue Quill	Late	L am to M pm	16-18 BWO, Blue Quill or Adams Parachute 16-18 BWO Nymph or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Quill Gordon	Late	L am to M pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph
Midges	All Month	All Day	18-22 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa

'Website-of-the-Month': <http://www.georgia-outdoors.com/ngto/front.shtml>
Check out the: [Message Board](#)

Dream Trip Raffle

For A Fly Fishing Vacation!

The winner and their partner will each receive:

- 5 days fishing and 6 nights lodging and meals at the Green River Guest Ranch in Cora, WY

<http://www.grguestranch.com/>

Dates July 21-27, 2007

- 9 ft 5 wt Winston Boron II X custom made fly rod
 - An Orvis Battenkill barstock reel with line
 - A fly box and flies for the trip.
(Approx. 5-7 dozen per box)
- \$650 in travel expenses (this is total, not per person)

For complete rules and details visit www.georgiatu.org



There are 6 consolation prizes for lucky ticket holders including a 4 night stay in an Idaho log cabin with 3 days of guided Yellowstone area fishing, 2 Georgia trophy trout outings, a custom made Thomas & Thomas 9' 5 weight 4 piece fly rod, and 2 sets of 6 dozen flies & boxes.

All 7 winning tickets will be drawn March 24th at the "Hoot on the Hooch" TU event in the banquet hall at the Helendorf Inn (in Helen, of course). You do not have to be present to win.

Ticket price is \$10 and proceeds will go to the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited to help fund the annual Georgia Trout Camp and the Back the Brookie campaign which helps brook trout restoration and educational projects.

Contact Prez Terry Rivers for your raffle tickets: Ph 706 782 7419 E-mail tlr1121@alltel.net



Two guys from south of Tallulah Falls are quietly sitting in a boat on Lake Rabun, fishing and sucking down beer when suddenly Mel says, "I think I'm going to divorce my wife - she hasn't spoken to me in over two months."

Earl sips his beer and says, "You better think it over - women like that are hard to find."

Our **Thanks** to Rabunite Donna Claridad for sharing this one with us.

Visitor Use Capacity Analysis, Upper Chattooga River

In April 2005, the Washington Office of the USDA Forest Service issued a [decision](#) on an appeal by American Whitewater of the Sumter National Forest's [Revised Land and Resource Management Plan](#) (Forest Plan). The Forest Plan, issued in January 2004, continued a restriction on boating in the upper reaches of the Chattooga River (approximately 20 miles of the total of 57 miles) that has been in place since 1976. In its appeal, American Whitewater was concerned that boating was unfairly excluded and stated that the Forest Plan should be changed to allow "year-round access for self-guided groups of non-commercial, non-motorized canoeists and kayakers" to float the river.

The decision on the appeal issued by the Washington Office did not change the management of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River but directed the Southern Regional Office and the Sumter National Forest to do additional work, specifically to conduct an appropriate visitor use capacity analysis to collect information for reassessing the decision and to involve affected and interested parties.

To review the background info visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/forest/projects/chattbackground.shtml>

POINT> and <COUNTERPOINT The Fourth of a Series:

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Chattooga Headwaters

Editor's note: A boater posted a link on the Sumter National Forest Bulletin Board to "Frequently Asked Questions." To read all 17 boater questions and answers, visit http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/aw:chattooga_faq We believe readers also should have the "counterpoint" answers provided by the "foot travel only" stakeholders. Here are the next 2.

Did paddlers request the user capacity analysis?

Boater's point: No. Paddlers appealed the illegal boating ban, and on appeal the Chief of the USFS's office discovered that the Sumter National Forest had never conducted a user capacity analysis, which is a standard management tool on Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Chief asked that a user capacity analysis be carried out so that responsible management could begin on the Chattooga. While paddlers did not request a user capacity analysis, we are glad that our efforts will bring more responsible management to the Chattooga River.

Counterpoint: The North Fork's "foot travel only" stakeholders support conducting a capacity analysis and are pleased that the end result will establish Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) for the Wild and Scenic River (WSR) corridor above Highway 28. We believe the LAC will help protect the backcountry's wildness, remoteness, and solitude for future generations.

For more info on LAC, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/forest/projects/steps.shtml>

We also believe the West Fork backcountry upstream of the Overflow Road Bridge (FSR 86) also has Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) that caused that river to be included in the WSR Act as a "Wild" section and the Agency has the responsibility to protect those values, too. For the first time, the 2004 Sumter Forest Plan made it legal for boating on this section. We believe the Forest Service must now establish the LAC needed to protect and preserve the natural environmental and natural processes from human influences. This means stopping the practice of allowing the removal of LWD (large woody debris) that blocks the passage of boats. Also, the proposed 3-mile WSR Overflow Creek extension (one mile into NC) must now be managed "as if they were already designated," as called for in the Chattahoochee Forest Plan.

Note: The Forest Service streams are managed in a manner that emphasizes and recruits LWD. The desired condition is approximately 200 pieces of LWD per stream mile (Sumter Forest Plan, page 3-41).

Visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/forest/projects/plan.pdf> (page 86 of 208)

For more info about the importance of LWD, visit http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/stewardship:woody_debris

Is the river currently "zoned" so that boaters have two thirds of the river and other users have one third?

Boater's point: Absolutely not. Anglers, hikers, swimmers, and other backcountry users can access and enjoy the entire Wild and Scenic Chattooga River. Only boaters are restricted. An unjustified ban on boating is not zoning – it is illegal and discriminatory management.

Counterpoint: Zoning of conflicting uses is good stewardship, not discrimination. Stewardship includes the protection of the aesthetic values of natural resources such as remoteness and wildness, the proper regard for the rights of others to solitude, and the responsibility of preserving those values intact for future generations. Two-thirds of the Chattooga is zoned to allow boating, including the West Fork, which contains almost half of the headwaters; and the North Fork is zoned for foot travel only (no horses, no boats, no bicycles) which provides the opportunities for remoteness and solitude. The WSR Act says all of these values, " - - shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." It is the use of watercrafts (rafts, kayaks, canoes, duckies, etc) and other transportation vehicles that are zoned away from the North Fork. Floaters and riders can still hike into the North Fork's backcountry just like everyone else. Hikers, swimmers, and anglers that want to observe boaters can visit the river below Highway 28. There is absolutely nothing in the Wild & Scenic River Act that says all compliant uses must be permitted in all sections of the river. To review the Wild & Scenic River Act, visit <http://www.nps.gov/rivers/wsract.html>

What's New in the Chattooga Zoning Issue?

Jan 5 & 6 (Fri & Sat) Data Collection: Reconnaissance trips were made on the Chattooga's North Fork at flow levels ranging from 2.2 feet to 2.7 feet (on the US 76 gauge) with expert panels of 8 boaters, 8 anglers, and researchers. Boaters found those levels very boatable. Anglers found good water clarity, the river was wadable and fishable, and trout were feeding and readily catchable at those levels. Only one angler was spin fishing and the rest were fly fishing.

For more info, visit http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/forest/projects/update_january.shtml

Rabun TU members David Cannon and Doug Adams were on the angler's panel.

Don Kinser was on the boater's panel (Don is Vice President of American Whitewater and also a member of Ranum TU).

Click here to read [Don Kinser's Trip Report](#)

For years the boaters have been telling the Forest Service the only time the Chattooga's North Fork is boatable is during high water periods over 2.0 feet on the gauge "when angling is less desirable and when wading is dangerous." This is simply not true. Anglers regularly fish there at gauge readings up to 2.5 feet and higher without getting hurt. From 2003 through 2005, the level was over 2.0 feet an average of 159 days/year.

Jan 19 (Fri) Boater's Lawsuit Update: The 11th Circuit has granted the boaters a 4-week extension on filing their brief in the appeal until February 14. Typically, extensions are granted if the mediator thinks there is any chance of success at reaching a resolution.

Obviously, however this issue is resolved it will be precedent setting with far reaching consequences into the future and across all federal agencies that manage and zone recreational waters. You need to share your views NOW.

Have you experienced user conflict or interference from whitewater boating on a mountain trout stream? Is it worse now than it was 20 years ago? What's it going to be like in another 20 years? Do we need more stream sections zoned like the North Fork of the Upper Chattooga, for "foot travel only"? If you have an opinion, please take a few minutes and tell the Forest Service.

SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO: PROJECT COORDINATOR – JOHN CLEEVES, E-MAIL jcleeves@fs.fed.us

USDA FOREST SERVICE, 4931 BROAD RIVER ROAD, COLUMBIA, SC 29212

FOR MORE INFO ON THE VISITOR USE CAPACITY ANALYSIS, VISIT: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/forest/projects/chattbackground.shtml>

Excerpt from an editorial by Steve Burch, a whitewater boater and fisherman, in the May 2003 Georgia Outdoor News

"The Chattooga (North Fork) needs to remain boat-less above Hwy 28.

Unlike the Chattahoochee, the Nantahala, the Oconee with their carnival atmosphere and constant parade of brightly-colored boats, the Chattooga is a cathedral; special, serene, remote, wild, and natural.

For anglers like me it is simply a special place. For boaters like me it is simply another place."

What's New Elsewhere?

Virginia: Climate change could hurt trout; Warmer waters would diminish population in Va., researchers say (1/20/07) Visit, http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD/MGArticle/RTD_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1149192753246 Researchers warn that if current climate projections hold true, warmer temperatures could mean fewer trout in Virginia's 2,300 miles of wild trout streams. And one model indicates rising temperatures could take 97 percent of the trout habitat in the southern Appalachians by 2100. "A warmer climate. That doesn't sound so bad," said Patricia Flebbe, a researcher with the U.S. Forest Service's Southern Research Station in Blacksburg. "And 2 or 3 degrees doesn't sound like much. It might mean it won't be so cold in the winter. Or I might run my air conditioner more." Trout can't survive water temperatures above 76 degrees for very long and suffer when temperatures are 72 degrees over a long period, said Nathaniel Gillespie, a fisheries scientist with the conservation organization Trout Unlimited. "Trout are a cold-water fish," he said. "That's just the way they're designed." There are other factors that also can influence the trout population in Virginia, which has more streams than all of the eastern United States combined. A recent study on brook trout shows the most immediate threats to the native fish are agricultural land management, urbanization and introduced species -- brown and rainbow trout, Gillespie said. All wild trout are threatened by changing land use and rising temperatures. "The analysis doesn't take into account any type of mitigation that people might do," Flebbe said. "Not so much to try to fix it, but work to provide the fishing experience." For instance, more streams may be stocked with trout. And while Virginia already puts 1.25 million trout raised in five hatcheries into streams and lakes each year, those trout won't support populations year-round because the fish will survive only long enough for people to catch them. "Stocked trout are just for people's enjoyment," Gillespie said. Wild trout are different, he said. "They're part of the food chain and part of the ecosystem."

Stekoa Creek Update GA EPD has issued a public notice concerning a draft permit for expanding Clayton's sewage treatment plant (STP). The draft permit allows expanding the plant's capacity from .8 MGD to 1 MGD, and would further allow

an additional expansion to 2 MGD (million gallons/day). An expansion of the capacity of City of Clayton's STP is premature and irresponsible until the City of Clayton adequately repairs and/or replaces their existing failing collection system. Any expanded treatment capacity granted to the City of Clayton should be contingent upon and withheld until the successful completion of already identified defects in the collection system. Public comment period has now closed.

Black Panther Report on THE RIVER: In early January a Forest Service employee was performing a biophysical survey as part of the Upper Chattooga User Capacity Analysis. He was on the GA side below Burrell's Ford near the infamous Cougar Pool when he encountered a black panther. The employee went down the side of the mountain into the river. The panther followed the poor fellow down to the river and paced back and forth on a rock as the fellow scrambled out on the SC side. Several folks have since visited the area but no further sightings have been reported. Bill Kelly says, "By Golly, - - -"

Well, you know what Bill says.



Wild cougar in Arkansas photographed by a "trip camera."

Our thanks to Rabunite Mike Brod for photo.

Letters to the Editor

Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2007

Subject: Rabun Rendezvous - Pyrography

Rabunites: Words can not express to you my sincere thanks for allowing me to participate at this year's Twentieth Anniversary Rabun Rendezvous. As an artist this event has been most beneficial. You won't believe the kind words related to me regarding my artwork, especially the Pyrography of the Rainbow Trout I donated for this year's event. I was most humbled by the comments from the many attendees who participated in the Silent Auction and Bucket Drawings. For this exposure, I thank you.

It pleased me that Carl Riggs was determined to purchase the tray for his own collection of my work in Atlanta. I am most grateful the tray (raised) \$110 for your causes. As the wife of a staunch supporter of the Rabunites, I don't know of any other place I would have rather receive this money. Your work for others is exemplary. I applaud you for the hours you give in saving our streams for the next generation.

Thank you for allowing me to tag along beside my husband Ray to some of your events. You have all warmly received me. For this, I can't thank you enough.

Again, my sincerest appreciate to all of you for everything you do for me and especially for allowing me to contribute my time and efforts through my creative bent; art.

Sincerely, Patsy Lewis Gentry – Sautee, GA

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007

To: Terry Rivers

Subject: Rendezvous

Terry, just wanted to let you know what a great time we had at the Rendezvous. You guys really know how to put a party on. I bought Patsy Gentry's tray and will treasure it for a lifetime and my friend bought the rod that Garland made. I hope the event was a financial success because I want to be able to come back next year. By the way John Dillard Jr's mother works for my wife at the Center for Disease Control here in Atlanta and we got to meet him, really a nice guy and did a wonderful job for Rabun. See you at the next council meeting.

From: Carl Riggs, President UCCTU - Atlanta, GA

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007 12:23 PM

Subject: The 20th Rabun Rendezvous Program

The "archive" of a printed program and a CD copy went to Terry Rivers, I believe. You guys are welcome to copy and enjoy.

Thanks for the invite. I felt that, after 20 years of the Rabunites' work for coldwater conservation and education, I owed you hillbillies a decent program as a thanks from DNR. Glad you felt that it was well received.

WAAAHHHH - HOOOOO!

From: Jeff Durniak – Cleveland, GA

Editor's notes: *Thanks for making it the best Rendezvous ever! Your program was outstanding. You and the other Jeff (Foxworthy) should team up and do banquet programs. You were GREAT!*

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007

Subject: Rendezvous

Great event Saturday night!! I just got your email with totals !!!

From: Steve Raeber – Atlanta, GA

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007

Congratulations on the successful Rabun Rendezvous....Sounds like you had a great time.....

From: Cecil Greene – Raleigh, NC

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007

Congratulations on your successful Rendezvous

From: Don Kinser – Marietta, GA

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007

Subject: 20th Annual Rabun Rendezvous Summary Report
Thanks for note and your rapid turnaround of the "bottom line" figures. Congrats on hillbillies' success in confiscating flatlander funds to do more good deeds for trout, trout habitat, and all GA trouters.

From: Jeff Durniak – Cleveland, GA

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007

Subject: Rendezvous

We made it. Sorry we missed you. There were a few people there. We had a great time. My grandson came with us and he got a free reel and won a few prizes. He was in Heaven. Thank you so much for your work, I hope I can assist some way next year. What a great time. Thanks,

From: Jesse Durham – Tallahassee, FL

Editor's note: *Thanks for the kind words. The reel your grandson received was donated by Bass Pro Shops in Atlanta. Now it is up to you to take him fishing as often as you can.*

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007

Subject: 20th Annual Rabun Rendezvous

This was our third Rendezvous and every gathering just gets better.

At the first Rendezvous we attended in 2005, I only knew two people – Terry Rivers (because I went to high school with him in Henry County) and Tom Landreth (because I knew his mother when she lived in McDonough and I had corresponded with Tom when I first moved to Clayton).

This time I felt like it was 'old home week'. Yes, there were lots of people there we didn't know, but there were a bunch we did and there isn't a friendlier group of people than the Rabunites!!

Thanks to you and all of the members of TU who work so hard to make it possible for former 'flatlanders' to be able to enjoy the miraculous number of natural resources that are to be found here in the streams and rivers of Rabun County.

Congratulations on an event that was well planned, well coordinated and well attended.

I'm looking forward to being able to attend the two day fly fishing school I bought in the silent auction. When I'm done, I'm throwing away my spinning gear for good!!!

In grateful appreciation,

From: Lynda Hester – Clayton, GA

Editor's notes: *Thank you for your kind comments.*

"When a man (or woman) picks up a fly rod for the first time, he may not know, he has been born again." Joseph D. Farris

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007

Subject: Great job on the Rendezvous! It was a blast!

I'll tell ya -- I was trying to get two of my buddies to come with me and I finally talked them into coming on Saturday. They asked me, "Is it gonna be a bunch of old folks?" And I said, "Well, yeah, but they're FUN old folks!" Needless to say, they had a great time, especially the one who won THE MAP!!

I wish we could have an event like that more than once a year, but it is a great time!

From: David Cannon – Madison, GA

Editor's notes: *See you at the "Hoot on the Hooch" on 3/24.*

Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Subject: Re: 20th Annual Rabun Rendezvous Summary Report

A hearty congratulations on the success of the Rendezvous. I'm sorry I couldn't attend. I know that you and a few others put a lot

of hard work in making it the best ever. **GO RABUNITES !**
From: Russ Tyre – St Petersburg Beach, FL

Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007

Subject: Montana Pics

Donna-

We haven't met but your picture in the November TIGHTLINES brought back some great memories from my September trip to Montana/Yellowstone. The first picture is basically the same shot that appeared in the Newsletter, but without the smiling faces and perplexed fish. In the picture you will see what appear to be clouds over the top of the mountain, but it was actually the smoke rising from what they called the jungle fire. The second pic does contain a smiling face and puzzled fish, both of which belonged to me for that instant. This pic is from just below where you were standing, near the drainage back into the Yellowstone River.

I just wanted to share these and thought you would enjoy.

From: Mitch Logan – Lawrenceville, GA



Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2007

Subject: Rabun Rendezvous

Jeff; The program you gave last night was outstanding. I never laughed so much in my life. What an excellent choice in subject matter; *The Rabunites over Twenty Years*.

I want to thank you for placing my granddaughter, Savannah's picture with Ray at Indian Lake in the presentation. She was the little girl with the yellow sweat jacket thrilled at her catch. I had just brought her over from South Carolina to Indian Lake for the Boy Scout event that the Rabunites were hosting. The club was assisting all the scouts in teaching them how to cast a reel and catch fish for a merit badge. Well, Miss Savannah caught twenty-four fish that day beating all the scouts. It was her first time to learn how to cast. This was all she needed.....she was hooked into the game of fishing.

Whenever Savannah comes for a visit, she always asks, "Ray-Ray" can you take me fishing?" As the result of that day's event with the Scouts, Ray has taught her to cast a line almost perfectly. Savannah catches fish every time we go to a lake or stream. Once catching a 15-pound catfish, she helped Ray clean, fry and then ate the entire fish. This past Christmas, Ray gave Savannah her first fly rod with case. She loves the sport and has learned how to "catch and release" as well.

Again, thank you for your kindness in featuring our family in (your) presentation. The Rabunites are a wonderful group of gentlemen. We are most honored to be a part of their club and family of friends in these hills of Appalachia. I am blessed to know you as well.

From: Patsy Lewis Gentry – Sautee, GA

Editor's notes: 15-pounds of catfish is a lot for a little girl to land and EAT!

Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2007

Subject: Savannah's Whopper

BIG MISTAKE.....Savannah caught a 14 inch catfish.....NOT a 14 pound catfish. Ray just came into the room bending over in laughter at my BIG mistake..... Attached is the "Whopper". I have never seen a child so happy..... 14 pounds or 14 inches, this was a prize in my grandchild's eyes.

From: Patsy



A January "Fall Report "

On the Saturday afternoon of the Flow Trials, the members of the angler panel were instructed to go fish for about an hour in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness. We were also instructed to fish in sight of another panel member. THE RIVER was at a level of about 2.6 to 2.7 feet with good clarity and W/T of about 48°F. During the final few minutes, 3 anglers were strung out in the Norman Pool.

Jimmy Harris was fishing the tail-out. David Cannon had worked his way out on the large submerged rock in the center of the pool and was fishing several runs and seams. Doug Adams was picking a few pockets at the head of the pool.

David went to step off the big rock and misjudged the depth. Doug turned and observed David neck deep, facing up stream and traveling downstream, one arm extended high above the water grasping his new TFO rod. Doug hollered **Waaah Whooo!** Jimmy, with a concerned expression on his face, watch as David traveled backwards towards him for about 25 or 30 feet.

David finally got his feet down under himself and stood up in about 3 feet of water. Doug and Jimmy looked at each other and simultaneously hollered **NINE!** That is a score of 6 for **"Down on the butt to neck deep"**, 2 bonus points for **"Extra duration"**, and 1 bonus point for **"W/T under 50°F"**! Great show, David!

Next time you might want to consider taking your wader belt out of your pocket and wearing it. Plus a Ziploc plastic bag for the digital camera would be nice.

(For more info on the Rabunite Method of Scoring Falls, visit the May 2005 issue of TIGHT LINES, <http://www.rabuntu.com/>)

Fishing Report

From: C. C. Barrett

Sent: Friday, January 12, 2007

Not exactly a "braggin" photo. You said - send me a picture of a Red.

Been too cold for good fishing. Caught this 23" Red on a Johnson Spoon in 18" of water. Saw him chasing a finger mullet.

Take Care, C. C.



Editor's Notes: Here, I'll stretch it a bit for you C. C.

"BACKCASTING"

Jan 16 (Tues) Chapter Meeting with 26 in attendance. The program presenter was **Rabunite David Cannon** (a.k.a Trout Tackler on NGTO). David gave us an excellent and very entertaining PowerPoint presentation about mentoring. He told us how a mentor (The Dredger) got him hooked on fly fishing for trout and introduced him to the beautiful Chattooga North Fork backcountry. Now David is a mentor and passing on the joys of trout to others. He told us how to identify mentoring prospects when we encounter other anglers on THE RIVER. He complimented the Rabunites on being such a successful Chapter and reviewed some of the reasons we are. Next he switched his presentation to "Fly Fishing on the Cheap" and told us how and where to locate those equipment bargains. He concluded his program by telling us about Georgia Outdoor News (his employer) and the commitment to have more articles for the trout anglers.

The Meeting Raffle had 8 buckets including 2 assortments of flies and a "redneck wreath." Ray and Patsy Gentry were the big winners and Doug Mansfield won by default (ask him about it). We raised \$106 to be used toward the cost of mailing newsletters to members without E-mail and for the meeting hospitality expenses. A BIG "thank you" goes to all the Rabunites who donated the items and to those who purchased raffle tickets.

We covered the final details and assignments for The Rendezvous. A brief BOD meeting was held to select a program for the March meeting. **Jimmy Whiten** was not in attendance so we didn't hear about his 20" trout, - - - again.

Jan 19 (Fri) Annual Meeting of the Chattooga Coalition at the USFS Office in Clayton. There were 19 attendees (including 5 Rabunites) represent the CONF, SNF, NF of NC, GA WRD, SC DNR, NC DEM, and anglers from GA and SC TU. Items discussed included an update on the Upper Chattooga's North Fork user capacity analysis, Chattooga anglers diaries summary, annual in-stream temperature monitoring results, water chemistry monitoring, fish sampling, fish stocking, black panther sighting on the edge of THE RIVER below Burrell's Ford, and the Chattooga Coalition mission update for the next 10 years. Monte Seehorn will issue the minutes of the meeting.

Jan 20 (Sat) 20th Annual Rabun Rendezvous: THANK YOU to all the Rabunites that collected donations, made preparations and arrangements, and helped set-up for the event. It was the BEST Rabun Rendezvous ever. Attended by 240 people celebrating the joys of trout and clean coldwater streams. There were great people, terrific food and service by the Dillard House staff, The Foxfire Boys provided some of the best bluegrass music around anywhere, an unbelievable selection of donated auction and raffle items, and a wonderfully entertaining program presented by Jeff. And in the process we raised over \$12,500 to be used in our mission to conserve, protect and restore Northeast Georgia's trout fisheries and to help educate the next generation of coldwater conservationists. By Golly, it just don't get no better than that!

Jan 23 (Tues) BOD Meeting was cancelled. GO FISH!

Georgia Trout Unlimited is a Member of



We appreciate the use of the Community Room for our meetings.



A Winning Streak

By David Cannon - Rabunite

I'm on what most people would call a "winning streak", at least on the day of January 20. On 1/20/06, after a week of pure torture (self-inflicted), pulling over at gas stations on the way to work because of an unhappy stomach, an unraveled nerves, I finally made it through the day, asked my beautiful Stephanie to marry me, and she, for whatever reason (she works for non-profits, so she has a giving heart... as Durniak enjoys pointing out), said yes. So, that was obviously a memorable day.

Fast-forward exactly one year to the day, 1/20/07, and I find myself waking at 5:45 to shower, shave and shoot to the Gwinnett Civic Center. I was excited about seeing Henry Cowen's program on fly fishing the Outer Banks, NC, for False Albies, meet Chris Scalley and Kyle Burrell after months of speaking with them over the phone, checking out the latest gear I may never be able to afford and seeing familiar faces from NGTO and TU meetings. But, the reason I arose well before my preferred Saturday wake up time was for a scheduled interview with the master himself, Lefty Kreh.

I was supposed to have roughly 15-20 minutes with the icon, but we were having such a good time talking off to the side in somewhat-private that it ended up extending to over an hour. I had about a dozen questions for him on everything from fishing to marriage (the interview will appear in the March issue of Georgia Outdoor News in Cannon's Creel) and he offered advice on everything, including a little career advice, which was great. Just to give you a little tidbit, he told me that no matter how much you know about anything, "Everyone you meet knows something you don't." I thought that was pretty incredible of him to say. Think about it -- this guy probably knows more about fly-fishing - for anything - than all of us combined; yet he, in all of his knowledge and experience, was able to realize that he still had much to learn.

Once all of the questions were finished, we stood up and he said, "Well David, I've got about 30 minutes until my first demonstration... You want a quick casting lesson?" "Sounds good to me, Lefty!" I replied.

So, we made our way to the big "pond" in the middle of the Civic Center and I quickly strung up a TFO 8 wt. I made a couple of false casts and he quickly pointed out a few things I was doing wrong (although not everything, I'm sure.... remember, it was a QUICK casting lesson!). Meanwhile, everyone in the entire building had crowded around to watch HIM, and somehow I was drug into it! It was a little embarrassing because, well, I don't have the prettiest or longest cast, but it was definitely a memorable experience.

Later in the day, my wife met me at the show and, after a quick round of the show and introducing her to a few people, we hopped in her car (better gas mileage!) and made our way to the Dillard House for the 20th Rabun Rendezvous, stopping in Cornelia so two buddies, Matt and Wes, could hop in the car with us.

Upon arrival, we were greeted to the usual great bluegrass of the Foxfire Boys, the pig pickin' and wondering, after Stephanie loaned me \$10 and finding out that Wes and Matt also had \$10 a piece for raffle tickets, where we should pile our tickets to increase our chances of victory. Our minds were made up the moment we saw a bucket where THREE winning tickets would be pulled with each winner going home with one of **Doug Adams' coveted maps** of the Chattooga.

We dropped our tickets in and stepped in the buffet line. After eating and enjoying good company, the speaker was announced and began his program. The topic was "The Evolution of the

Rabunite" and was a hoot! What was even better for me is that it was given by the guy that took the time to teach me how to fish with a fly rod, Jeff Durniak. It was by far the most entertaining program I've ever heard at a TU function, and I've heard some pretty good'uns!

Short tangent: Last year, Jeff was recognized by the Rabun Chapter for his outstanding service to our coldwater resources and those who enjoy them. Jeff, who doesn't like being recognized, quickly belted out a few four-letter words under his breath (I was sitting across from him at the table, so I know this for a fact!). Then, with a twinkle in his eye during a moment of realization he said, "Well, at least I'm gettin' a Landreth print!" It turns out that he DID NOT get a Landreth print, but was handed a pretty handsome plaque from the Rabunites.

Now, back to this year... Since Jeff was the featured speaker at the Rendezvous this year, those of us who knew of Jeff's disappointment (not really) last year thought that surely Jeff would get his Landreth print this year. Well... Charlie B. stood up to give Jeff his "thank you" and handed him.....

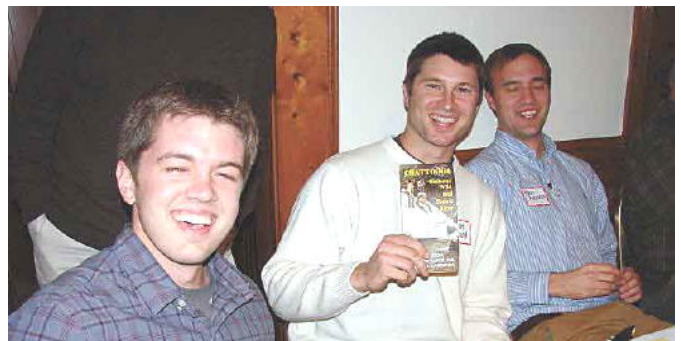
A large frame filled with memorabilia from his receiving the National Professional Conservationist of the Year Award in Minneapolis back in September! But, as I was sitting there, I noticed Tom Landreth fiddling with something under the table. A minute later he stood up to give Jeff the first copy of his newest print, which is a beautiful watercolor of two fellas fishing the Chattooga. A year of waiting finally paid off.

After Jeff's program and the presentation of the Landreth print came the moment of truth.... the bucket raffle for THE MAP!!

The first number was drawn.... looking... looking... shoot! None of us had the winner.

The second number was drawn.... looking... looking.... then, like someone who had just found out he had won the Powerball Lottery of \$200M, my buddy Matt started shaking violently and said something like, "GUH GUH GUH GUH THAT'S YOU! THAT'S YOU!" Our buddy Wes had the winning ticket, and you would have thought the three of us were about to hoist the Lombardi trophy! So, Wes is now in charge of planning our next trip to THE RIVER. Where will we go?? Well, I don't believe I said.

So, while 1/20/07 wasn't nearly as significant, personally, for me as was 1/20/06, it was a great, and less nerve-racking, day! I just checked the calendar and 1/20/08 is on a Sunday next year. The only thing I could think of that would top the past two years would be the birth of our first child. But, Lord knows that if I can only afford \$10 worth of raffle tickets, there's no way I can afford a little Cannon! So, I guess I'll be wet-wading the rest of the winter! :)





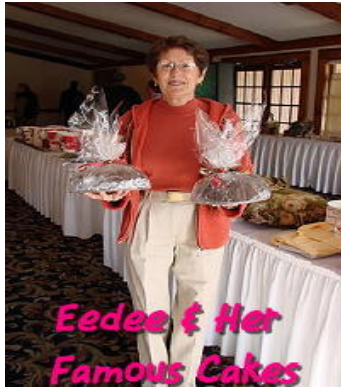
Earnest & Prez Terry



**The 20th Annual
Rabunites Bill & Larry**



**Art
For Silent Auction**



**Eedee & Her
Famous Cakes**



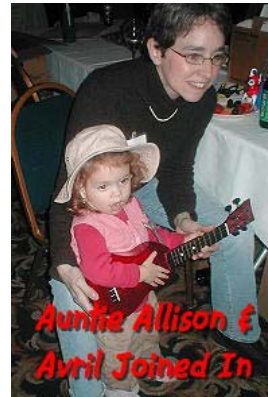
The Check-In



Pig Pickin'



**The Foxfire Boys
Made Bluegrass Music**



**Auntie Allison &
Avril Joined In**



**Lots of
Bucket Raffles**



And The Flatlanders Came



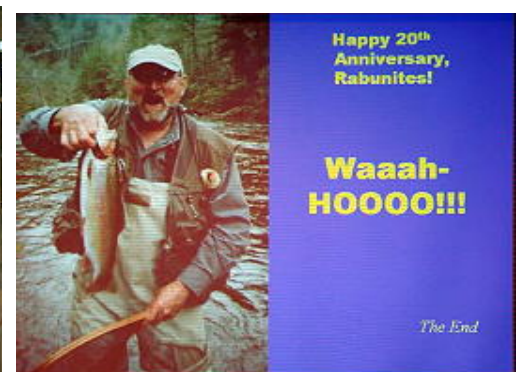
Jeff presents The Program



The Artist & The Dredger



Charlie, the M.C.



**Happy 20th
Anniversary,
Rabunites!**

**Waaah-
HOOOO!!!**

The End

"Thank You" to the following for their cash donations to be used as Grants-in-Financial-Aid for deserving youths sponsored by Rabun TU going to the 2007 GA Trout Camp:
Rabunite Russ Tyre of St Petersburg Beach, FL; **Betsy Fowler** of Clayton, GA; **Steven Arbitter** of Rabun Gap, GA; & **WAL*MART** of Clayton, GA

A BIG Thank You to the 98 Donors for the 2007 Rabun Rendezvous

Businesses & Organizations: The Foxfire Boys, The Dillard House, Unicoi Outfitters & Jimmy Harris, Reeves Hardware & Lewis Reeves III, Wilder Outdoors, Orvis, The Fish Hawk, Patagonia, Cabela's, Trail Flex, Atlanta Fly Fishing School & Mack Martin, Angler Sports Group, Hill Discount Flies, Stackpole Books, Fly Rod & Reel Magazine, TTI Blakemore Fishing Group, Dyna King, Blue Ridge Music & Tom Nixon, Blue Ridge Guides & Mike Maginn, Split Shot Companion, The Hollow Log, Tom Landreth - Artist, Patsy Lewis Gentry - Artist, Lee Johnson - Artist, Joe Raqucass - Artist, Dick Albertelli - Artist, Kelly Albertelli - Artist, Maxine Albertelli - Crafter, Rabun County Concert Series & Barbara Kobacker, Valley Drapery & Design, Persimmon Creek Vineyards, Community Bank & Trust, Rabun County Bank, Stephens Federal S & L Assn., Kountry Vittles, Valley Café, Cupboard Café, Feed Mill, Mountain Man BBQ, Mama "G's", Ingers Fine Foods, Grapes and Beans, Mittie Café, Piggly Wiggly, Valley Pharmacy, Amrine's Small Engine, Gregg's Tire & Service Center, Prater's Main Street Books, Mountain Nature & Wild Bird Supply, Kingwood Golf Club, Expectations Family Beauty Salon & Janis Jones, Total Therapy & Donna Marland, Old Clayton Inn, Coosa Valley TU Chapter & Paul Diprima, National TU, & Wal*Mart (Clayton)

Individuals: Betsy Fowler, Emily Perry, Pat Landreth Boyd, Pat Foster, Mitzi Cole, Frankie & Gene Vinson, Jennifer & Steven Arbitter, Garland Stewart, Harlin Smith, Julie & Duane Stalnaker, Charlie Trettel, Carl Riggs, Pat Mawhinney, Art Hasselman, Larry Vigil, Dale Powell, June & Tom Landreth, Llew & Walt Landreth, Steve Raeber, Dot & Ray Kearns, Winona & Max Gates, Elizabeth & Frank Allan, George Custer, Pat Hopton, Maria Rodeghiero, Gail & Frank Tolbert, Tom Matthews, Kathy & Charlie Breithaupt, Jim Nixon, Russell Johnson, Monte Seehorn, Amanda & Brooks & Avril Adams, Travis Barnes, Allison Adams, Jean & Bill Kelly, Eedee & Doug Adams, Russ Tyre, Emmilyn & Terry Rivers, Sandy & Ralph Morgan, Doris & Jimmy Whiten, Patsy & Ray Gentry, & Doug Hickman

"But should it be an off day, when the fish are glued to the bottom of the stream, how hard we work to tempt them! We feel a certain animosity against the trout. "Confound them! They must rise at something."

***Fortunately our mood is easily sweetened and a little success goes a long way.
If it was always easy to take trout, surely we would not be so fond of fly-fishing."***

Louis Rhead

Wishin' I Was Fishin'

By Ben Houston - Rabunite



I really enjoy to fish.
It is fun to make a catch
What more could a fisherman wish
Than to catch a whole batch!

I like to go out west,
It's really kind of cool.
The nature is the best.
If you don't agree you'd be a fool!

The rivers are full of trout.
The water is fresh and clear.
It's a dream world for a scout
The vacation spot of the year!

It is so exciting when you get one hooked.
Reeling them in is such a thrill!
The fish are picturesque. Have you
looked?

I can catch one and that takes skill.

Your equipment is a rod and reel,
Waders, boots, sunglasses, and flies.
You must not forget to bring a creel.
When you fry your fish don't forget the
fries!

"True fish cars have unusual powers. Of course, they automatically develop a distinctive aroma that defines their mission in life. But they also have almost-magical abilities. For example, most of them can generate and multiply their own trash. Where at first there was a single MacDonalds wrapper, a used foam cup and empty beer bottle, soon a half-dozen of each appear, as if spawned by the initial clutter.

... If you need to make a trip to the local bank to see a loan officer to finance your purchase [of your fish car], you're looking at the wrong wheels."

Excerpt from an Editorial by Jack Russell in "American Angler" magazine, November-December 1992

Georgia Trout Camp Application Process

Charlie Breithaupt, the Camp Director, is taking applications NOW for the **2007 Georgia Trout Camp**. Twenty-four campers (boys and girls from ages 12 – 15) will be selected for the 2007 Georgia Trout Camp, June 10 – 15th.

For details, visit: <http://georgiatu.org/id3.html>

Or contact **Charlie Breithaupt, Camp Director** Ph 706 782 6954 E-mail knc615@windstream.net

"Often in the early season we have the experience of seeing trout rising all around and not being able to make them take a dry fly. Such conditions used to get me quite exasperated, and I wondered what could be the matter. Observation finally solved the riddle and made the method of fishing to be employed on these occasions perfectly plain. When trout are feeding on the surface and will not take any kind of dry fly, they are always feeding on midge larvae and midges. The larvae are rising from the bottom, and the midges are on the surface. Midge larvae are much larger than the midges we see in the air developed from them and are in the form of little worms, often red in color, but other forms are brown or black."

From Hewitt's "Nymph Fly Fishing"

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Big Rabunite welcome to **3 new members** this month: **Terry Roderick**, 4507 Holly Forest Drive, Gainesville, GA 30507; **Jesse Durham** (transfer), 629 Forest Lair, Tallahassee, FL 32312-1740, **Frank White** (transfer), 1516 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30309

Thanks for re-upping: **Pat Gorman, Lea Richmond, Charles Cawthon, Lewis Reeves III, Ronald Robeson, Donald MacLeod, Nancy Gribble, and Terry Seehorn.**

It is time to renew your membership: **Duane Campbell, Jeremy Strauss, Matthew Calvin, Kyle Burrell, Lindsey Gilbert, Allison Adams, Cari Westbrook, Chris Shackelford, William Hamlett, Bruce Mitchell, Connie Keener, Anthony Welch, and Tony Wheeler.**

We wish a speedy recovery to our good friend and charter Rabunite, **Tom Landreth**, as he undergoes chemo treatment. Hope to see you back on THE RIVER for the mayfly hatches this spring.

"Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in. I drink at it; but while I drink I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is. Its thin current slides away, but eternity remains."

From Walden by Henry David Thoreau

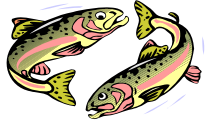
Congratulations Rabunites

Because of your hard work and dedication to our mission to conserve, protect, and restore Northeast Georgia's trout fisheries and to help educate the next generation of coldwater conservationists, the Rabun Chapter has scored 96 of a possible 100 in the annual Chapter Efficiency Index evaluation. Each year all TU Chapters nationwide are evaluated in 4 general categories: Annual Conservation Activity, Annual Education Activity, Annual Service to Chapter Members, and Chapter Business Practices. This is the second year in a row we scored 96.

Well done, Rabunites! WAAAahWHoooo!

Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2007

President - Terry Rivers , PO Box 371, Clayton, GA 30525	Ph 706 782 7419	E-mail tlr1121@alltel.net
Vice President - Jimmy Whiten	Ph 706 886 6546	E-mail jimmywhiten@nctv.com
Treasurer (w/Newsletter & Meeting Raffles) - Doug Adams	Ph 706 746 2158	E-mail edadams1@alltel.net
Secretary (w/Publicity & Letters) - Tom Landreth	Ph 706 746 2295	E-mail landreth@alltel.net
Past President (w/Membership & Hospitality) - Ray Kearns	Ph 706 782 9913	E-mail raykearns@alltel.net
Director (w/Programs) - Bill Kelly	Ph 706 746 2104	E-mail bkjk1@alltel.net
Director (w/Website) - Kathy Breithaupt	Ph 706 782 6954	E-mail knc615@windstream.net
Director (w/Campouts & USFS Work-outsings) - Charlie Breithaupt	Ph 706 782 6954	E-mail knc615@windstream.net
Director - Larry Walker	Ph 706 244 4345	E-mail amosndixie@alltel.net
Director - Lea Richmond	Ph 706 782 6898	E-mail learichmond@alltel.net
Director - Ray Gentry	Ph 770 455 6375	E-mail regentry@alltel.net



News from the President..... **Terry Rivers**

Wahoooo! What a Rendezvous!

Let me say thanks to all of the members and guest that attended the Rabun Rendezvous. This year was our best money-raising event ever! I want to thank everybody that donated items for the silent auction and bucket raffles. Also, I want to thank the Dillard house for a great meal and hosting our annual event.

There are not enough words to say about this year's speaker and his program. I think everybody really enjoyed it according to the laughs and comments I have received. Thanks very much Jeff; it could not have been better.

Well the weather finally has cooled down; and, also, the catching. You really have to dredge to even think of connecting with the fish. Now is a great time to fill your fly boxes for the upcoming spring fishing season.

I want to thank everyone that sent me sympathy e-mails and cards about the loss of my father at Christmas time. Thank you for attending the visitation and the funeral. Thank you for the donations made in memory of my father to his church.

Let me remind everyone about the up-coming planning meeting Feb 3rd at the Dillard House. We plan to spend all the money we raised this year. We also plan the work projects and campouts for the coming year. So if you want a voice in the planning, please be at this meeting!

This past year was a good year for our Chapter as far as a membership growth. We all have worked hard for this increase. We surely do not want to slow down now, so I want everybody to continue what you have been doing to achieve this goal. When I became your, President this was one of my goals to increase our membership. Great job everyone!

I will end my comments with a challenge to every member in our chapter to keep involved. We are only as strong as our efforts we put into our chapter.

Terry

Have a great day - Hope you catch a lot of fish.

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

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

We would love getting your "Letters to the Editor", 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 the chapter \$1.23 per newsletter mailed:

E-Mail edadams1@alltel.net

RABUN CHAPTER of TROUT UNLIMITED

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