



# TIGHT LINES October 2008 Newsletter of the

## Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited

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

*"If I'm not going to catch anything, then I'd rather not catch anything on flies"* Bob Lawless.

### RABUN TU 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)

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

*"There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse.  
Either is a gain over just staying home."*

From Fisherman's Spring by Roderick Haig-Brown (1951)

### "FORWARD CASTING" Important Dates – See you there!

**Sept 27 (Sat) GA DNR Outdoor Adventure Day** at Unicoi State Park. Lots of volunteers needed to help. Click on <http://www.gastateparks.org:80/net/calendar/details.aspx?s=142713.0.0.5&c=27799>  
Lots of volunteers needed to help. Click [HERE](#) For details on how you can help, contact Jeff Durniak [Jeff\\_Durniak@mail.dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:Jeff_Durniak@mail.dnr.state.ga.us)

**Oct 4 (Sat) Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge** – Rabun Chapter will be helping the Boy Scouts with earning their Fly Fishing Merit Badge. Please contact Terry Rivers. He will head this up and he will need lots of help. **Terry Rivers:** Ph 706 782 7419 E-mail [tlr1121@alltel.net](mailto:tlr1121@alltel.net).

**Oct 21 (Tues) Chapter Meeting**, 6:30 PM, Community B & T;  
**Program:** Jeff Durniak – "Dredging"  
**Editor's notes:** See "GOT A CAMERA?" article elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Oct 25 (Sat) Lee Keefer Retirement Dinner**

**Oct 28 (Tues) Board of Directors Meeting** 6:30 PM, Community B & T

**Nov 1 (Sat) Delayed Harvest Season Begins**

**Nov 5 – 8 (Wed – Sun) Camping and Fishing** – Long Bottom

**Nov 18 (Tues) Chapter Meeting**, 6:30 PM, Community B & T; **Program:** TBD

**Nov 25 (Tues) Board of Directors Meeting** 6:30 PM, Community B & T

**2009 Rabun Rendezvous - Saturday, Jan 24<sup>th</sup>**

The Program will be presented by Noel Holcombe,  
Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

### FLY OF THE MONTH by Terry Rivers



#### OCTOBER CADDIS

TIE THIS FLY THE SAME AS ANY ELK HAIR CADDIS EXCEPT BIG. THIS TIME OF THE YEAR IS EXCITING FOR ME. COOLER TEMPERATURES AND THE FALL COMING ON. YOU WILL WANT TO BE ON THE WATER WHEN THESE BIG FLIES BEGIN TO HATCH. IT'S THE NEXT BIG THING SINCE THE GREEN DRAKES. . SEE YOU ALL ON THE RIVER.

**HOOK:** #12 TO # 10  
**BODY:** ORANGE OR GINGER DUBBING  
**HACKLE:** GINGER PALMERED  
**WING:** ELK HAIR (LIGHT AS YOU CAN FIND BUT NOT BLEACHED)  
**ANTENA:** MICRO FIBETS (OPTIONAL)

*"Even with all the manmade alternatives available, most of us are still fascinated by natural fly-tying materials—and some people won't craft flies with anything else. That's because natural furs and feathers possess a magic that even the finest-looking artificial materials can't come close to matching. And if tying with natural materials is a magical experience, then it just makes sense that gathering and preparing your own ingredients only adds to the power of Mother Nature's spell."*

"Warm (Sometimes) and Fuzzy" by Paul Guernsey in April 2004 "Fly Rod & Reel"

## October Hatches

The Bugs	Time of Month	Time of Day	Suggested Flies
None at all	Can happen any time on any day		Dredging Nymphs: 12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, PT #14 Parachute Adams is always a good searching pattern
Small Dun Caddis	Early	Mid AM to Late PM	18 Brown Elk or Deer Hair Caddis 18 Grey Caddis Pupa
Speckled Grey-Brown Caddis	All Month	Late PM	14-16 Dark Elk Hair Caddis w/Yellow-Brown 14-16 Dun & Yellow Caddis Pupa
Large October Caddis (important)	All Month	Early AM and Late PM	8-10 Ginger Elk Hair; 12-14 Ginger Stimulator 8-10 Ginger Caddis Pupa
Blue Winged Olive & Blue Quill (important)	All Month	Late AM to Mid PM	16-18 BWO, Blue Quill or Adams Parachute 16-18 BWO nymph or Pheasant Tail
Midges	All Month	All Day	18-22 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa

**'Website-of-the-Month':** <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/forest/projects/commentsonpredecisionalea.shtml>

Click on: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/forest/projects/documents/1735-1761.pdf> to see how boaters are now attempting to eliminate the Delayed Harvest program and backcountry fishery management on the Upper Chattooga.

### Tom Landreth Memorial Fund

(Jan. 25, 1932 – Dec. 8, 2007) <http://www.tom-landreth.com/>



“Appalachian Autumn” by Tom Landreth (Click on picture)

Knowing of Tom's love of trout fishing and the Chattooga backcountry; his family gave their permission to establish the Tom Landreth Memorial Fund at Rabun TU with all donations used to help pay for the Chattooga backcountry sub-adult “put & grow” helicopter stocking program. What a nice way for his family to allow us to honor Tom.

*As a small token of remembrance, each donor is mailed 3 flies from one of Tom's fly boxes. Carry one of his flies with you when visiting those places Tom loved.*

#### **We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the following September donors to the Tom Landreth Memorial Fund:**

Milton Sams – Atlanta, GA	Sam Thomas – Jefferson, GA	Jack Edwards – Cartersville, GA
Sonny Marshall – Marietta, GA	Brent Langley – Covington, GA	Henry Wolfe – Conyers, GA
Crawford Plumbing Co; Bill Crawford Lawrenceville, GA	George Gillespie – Decatur, GA	Bret Nelson – Palm Beach Gardens, FL
Bill Egeland – Canton, GA	William Vaughn – Dewy Rose, GA	Clark Rodgers – Kennesaw, GA
Jeff Durniak – Cleveland, GA	Sam Alatar – Alpharetta, GA	Anonymous
Bill Kelly – Dillard, GA	Charles Morris – Statham, GA	
	Philip Alford – Alexander City, AL	

**To date, the donations have been sufficient to pay Rabun TU's share of helicopter costs for 7+ years, through 2014** (at the present challenge cost-share agreement amount). The funds will be held in a 12 month CD and withdraws will be made annually as needed. It is not too late to make a donation.

Write your donation check payable to: Rabun TU For: Tom's Memorial Fund

Mail to: Rabun TU, PO Box 65, Rabun Gap, GA 30568

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

**Editor's notes:** On 8/30 I departed on a 2-week camping and fishing road trip to WY and CO. This trip was with 2 Rabunite "trout" friends and cremains of our fishing buddy, Tom Landreth. At Tom's request, we placed a portion of his cremains in the upper Chattooga backcountry one evening last May during the green drake hatch. On this trip we returned to places where we had made memories with Tom trout fishing and camping West of Hiwassee. After 2 weeks, on Friday morning 9/12 (the last morning before beginning the drive back to GA and just as Tom had requested), we placed a portion of his cremains in a backcountry stream near the continental divide in CO. It was a place where Tom and I went on the first morning of his first trip to fish in the Rockies in 1987. D.A.



Location of Tom's cremains in CO

*Thanks for all the good memories, ole friend  
We'll catch up with you later, "around the bend."*  
Happy Trails and Tight Lines: Doug Adams, Pat Hopton & Terry Rivers

## Stekoa Creek Update

**Stekoa Creek Monitoring - A National Trout Unlimited "Embrace-A-Stream" Project in 2007 & 2008** [HERE](#) Stekoa Creek is classified as primary trout water, and should be capable of supporting trout reproduction. Stekoa Creek is also infamous as a very polluted tributary to the National Wild & Scenic Chattooga River. The City of Clayton is entirely in the Stekoa Creek watershed.

### DRIVING FOR TROUT

#### We need more volunteers – we have lost 2 volunteers (deceased and moving away)

Fifteen (17) members of Rabun TU have volunteered their time and vehicle expenses to drive the weekly Stekoa Creek Monitoring water samples to the certified lab in Jefferson, GA (132 mile round trip). The samples are collected by trained employees of the Chattooga Conservancy and transferred (by a chain-of-custody procedure) to a TU volunteer in the parking area at the Stekoa Creek Trading Co. on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM.

The volunteer schedule through the fall and early winter is as follows: **Tom Matthews (9/30); Lea Richmond (10/7); June Landreth (10/14); Jimmy Whiten (10/21); Larry Walker (10/28); Ray Kearns (11/4); Doug Mansfield (11/11); Terry Rivers (11/18); Tom Matthews (11/25); Kathy Breithaupt (12/2); Charlie Breithaupt (12/9); Gary Deal (12/16); Fritz Vinson (12/23); Doug Adams (12/30); Ray Gentry (1/6); Lea Richmond (1/13); Eedee Adams (1/20); Bill Kelly (1/27); & Travis Barnes (2/3)**

**If you can volunteer to be a driver** of samples to the lab, contact Doug Adams, Ph 706 746 2158; E-mail [edadams1@alltel.net](mailto:edadams1@alltel.net)

The water sample collector locates a Clayton's sewage collection system manhole spilling raw sewage into Stekoa Creek.



**A sewer manhole overflows on the south bank of the west prong (Scotts Creek) on Tuesday morning, August 26<sup>th</sup>. State EPD notified of the spill and plans to issue new orders to the City of Clayton.**

(The following excerpt is reprinted from the current issue of the Chattooga Quarterly)

Clayton City Council passed a resolution by unanimous vote on August 12, 2008, to issue a Request For Proposals (RFP) addressing the dire need to fix the city's sewage collection system (the main source of pollution into Stekoa Creek, and the Chattooga River downstream of the Stekoa confluence). City officials agreed to work with the Stekoa Watershed Task Force to draft this RFP, with the objectives of: a) soliciting proposals for engaging qualified engineering firm(s) to assimilate and evaluate all of the existing information about Clayton's sewage system; and, b) complete a comprehensive study of the state of the entire sewer system, to also include a projected cost for formulating short and long term plans (i.e., a prioritized schedule) for eliminating the sewage system's leaks. To read more, click [HERE](#)

**To view the lab results for the Stekoa Creek Monitoring water samples, click [HERE](#)**

**Want to help with the Stekoa monitoring?** The 2008 Trout Unlimited Embrace-A-Stream grant pays for about 50% of the lab fees. Matching donations are needed for the other 50%. For info on where you or your organization can send a donation to help pay lab fees E-mail [edadams1@alltel.net](mailto:edadams1@alltel.net). All donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501(c)3 non-profit) are tax deductible.

### Do You Ever Look at Your Backcast?

It is said that your forward-cast and back-cast should be a mirror image of each other when making an overhead cast. Many fly fishermen have problems with accuracy, distance and loop formation and often their problems are related to a poor back-cast. These back-cast problems are generally associated with large open loops, top and bottom legs of the back-cast loop being in different planes and poor stops at the end of the back-cast. When the back-cast suffers from one or more of these deficiencies then the forward cast that follows is very likely to be poor.

If the back-cast is made correctly then the fly line is unrolled directly behind the caster forming a straight line. When the following forward cast is started all the mass of the fly line is accelerated and the rod is subsequently loaded or bent allowing for a good forward cast. On the other hand, when the back-cast suffers from poor loop formation then the entire mass of the line

is unavailable to load the rod during the early stages of the forward cast because the poor loop that was formed in the back-cast must be straightened before the rod can load properly. When this occurs it always affects the quality of the forward cast. If you add a little wind to the process then the delivery cast is likely to get even worse.

So it often makes good sense to look at the quality of your back-cast and practice to make it look as close to your forward cast as possible. However, if your forward cast also has poor loop formation then both casts will require some improvement and more practice is in order. If this does not work then come and visit us at the Atlanta Fly Fishing School.

Click <http://www.atlantaflyfishingschool.com/>  
Mack Martin – Manager, Atlanta Fly Fishing School  
FFF Certified Master Fly Casting Instructor

**"GOT A CAMERA?" - West of Hiawassee 2008;** The Rabunite-Lite Version by the Dredger (a.k.a. Jeff Durniak)  
KLONDIKE PUBLICATIONS, INC. STANDARD DISCLAIMER: *You don't have to believe it if you don't want to!*

"We are so blessed," the Unicoi Guru (a.k.a. Jimmy Harris) exclaimed as he hopped into my car at 4AM on July 23 to kick off our second annual W of H excursion. An hour south to grab "Duluth Don" (a.k.a. Don Baldwin), a converted bassmaster, and then 45 minutes to Hartsfield. Yeah, we were starting to believe that we'd really pull off this trip! A Denver connection and finally a Bozeman touchdown confirmed our dream and completed our team. "Howdy guys, the SUV's ready to go" was our baggage claim greeting by Dredger's old Hokie roommate, "Michigan Ski," (a.k.a. Mike Sobaski) whose huge grin and 240-pound bear hug told that his veterinary duties were now far, far away. "Lunch?" "Yeah - drive thru." "Licenses?" "Yeah; what's close?"

The West will change you. The open lands, star-drenched skies, sheer mountains, awesome waters, and strong wild fish will make you feel that you're already with Landreth. I was lucky enough to first experience W of H in 2000 with the Full Blooded Rabunite version, when Meriwether Adams and Jim Bridger Kelly made room in their camper-topped F-250 for this rookie. We drove a zillion hours straight, camped out, shaved and showered about twice, and had a grand time for 10 days on some streams such as IDBIS in the state of IDBIS, per my bloodthirsty guides' rules of reporting. I learned about the utility of a landing net, and found that the first few pronghorns were amazing, while the next thousand were common. (Tourist!)

Alas, those two rascals now sponge off the guv'mint. They can leave for months and return only to collect their social security checks when gasoline, sugar and sour mash, or Wal\*Mart pancake mix run out, or when Eedee and Jean tell them to get their Rabunite fannies back home. The rest of us poor souls still have to work to pay for their fishing expenses, so our vacation time is at a much higher premium.

Guru poked during winter '06. "Let's go to Yellowstone. I ain't camping, but we can still do it on the cheap. I haven't been in years and it's time to get back there," My ears perked. "THE RIVER is right here," he explained, "and is shared with our Carolina brethren. However, The Other River is out there, flowing from the mega-caldera and through Hebgen and Quake. It's big and wide and." "Okay, okay, I'm in." We thought about two possible accomplices, knowing how much cabins and cars are when we could quarter the costs. We got solid hook sets on the very first two casts to friends.

Our foursome would rather fish than drive, and hot showers and warm beds are nice vacation perks, too, so we planned a Rabunite-Lite version of our western conquest. We hi-tailed it via United to the West Yellowstone area in 2007 and, despite the August drought, stream closures, scarcity of hatches, and "fair" catching by Montana standards, we had an absolute blast that week. We did stop to see Old Faithful blow, but took all subsequent tourist photos on the fly as we drove to each new angling destination. Thank God for Ski's Cannon with the image stabilizer, so we could distinguish the elk photo from the bison's! We vowed to do it again in '08. And to stop and see more scenic stuff. Maybe.

Cell phones rang at the New Year. "Let's go at prime time, the second week of July," said the calculating Dredger, fresh off memorizing three summers' worth of Blue Ribbon's archived fishing reports. "Sorry guys," I have family commitments til after the 20th," Ski humbly admitted between shovels of lake-effect snow. Bummer, thought Dredger, the best hatches will have passed! Then he rethought, of Rabunite lessons learned. It was about the fishing - the making of memories with friends. Real Rabunites and full-blooded Hokies know that the "catching" is just an added bonus. The foursome agreed that they'd go as a team, and that late was just great.

And now we were here. Well, almost. The Day 1 commuting marathon took us along the Madison and Henry's Fork, then over Teton Pass with I pod bluegrass blaring, into Jackson Hole for grub and WY licenses, along the Hoback, and finally into Green River Guest Ranch in Cora, WY at dark plus 3 hours.

Despite our acting like four young labs tethered back from fetching downed mallards, we did NOT stop and open a rod tube. Such self-control! Would this Wyoming leg be worth all that lost fishing time?

You betcha! At Thursday morning's omelet recharge, Dream Trip Duane and Hoover, first and most decorated disciple of Meriwether Adams, greeted us. During last winter's planning, we had asked these guys for a decent X or two marked on a Wind River Range topo. Not the best spots we said, just something good to get us started. "Heck no," said Duane, "I want to fish with ya'll when you come." Over coffee, Hoover said, "snow pack was above normal, so spring's late this year and you're here at the right time!" So, for two days, we "helped" Duane to scout his backcountry cutthroat honey holes (IDBIS) to prepare for his Dream Trip guests later that week. Geez, twist OUR arms. Parachute beetles were engulfed in golden gill plate flashes. Some cutts were small, most were medium, many were big, and a few were real big! All were beautiful. **"Got a camera?"**



On day 4, Ski and I again joined Duane for Secret Stream #3, while Guru and Don took up Hoover on his Green River drift boat offer if rowing duties were shared. At our supper rendezvous, we compared notes. Big, buttery browns to 20 inches sipping Adams dries on the meandering Green, versus a dozen or more golden cutts to 17 inches in an unnamed Ansel Adams canyon - which was better? We agreed that our experiences were a tie. I believe the universal term used was **"Waaah - HOOO!!!"**



Day 5 brought some welcoming handshakes to the Dream Trip winners, departing handshakes for our Georgia guides, and a U-turn toward West Yellowstone. Halfway there our trio outvoted the Guru, who yearned to take on the Henry's Fork Challenge. We wanted lots of big and dumb fish, and not thesis defenses against those slick water salmonids next to the highway's fly shops. Plus, if we kept moving, we could toss our suitcases into the hotel room, grab a bite, and hit the Madison that evening. Ah, we pushed Guru's magic button when we said "Madison." The Other River. Onward!

"Hi Janice, we're the GA hillbillies. Glad to meet you. This Lazy G Motel looks great. Here's our money. Where's the key. Thanks, we gotta go." Click, unlock, boom, boom, boom, boom. Four bags landed inside our rooms. "Arby's OK?" "Yeah, then quick detour to Blue Ribbon?" "Yup."

Then past Hebgen and Quake. "Let's check out Raynolds." "Hey, look, lot's not too crowded. We can outwalk them." And we wandered downstream a half-mile or so. Brushing against streamside willows brought caddis clouds into the air - twenties, slate. And soon, as our eyes trained on the "slicks" right next to the stream banks, those itty-bitty flies caused some mighty big noses to poke thru the surface film. We rushed to thread our five and six weights, tie on a 16 that we could see, and trail that size 18 dropper that we couldn't, but that the fish could.



And The Other River's switch was on. It stayed on. With the exception of a few mid-afternoon lulls, that switch stayed stuck in the ON position. Five days. ON. "Where do you guys wanna go today?" "Madison?" "Yeah." "Got my vote, too." Running Bear Pancake House, Blue Ribbon resupply, Raynolds, Three Dollar, or the Quake Whitewater. "Slurp!" And we hooked a bunch of 14 to 20 inch browns and rainbows. And they jumped and then tore into the main current and sang reel drags. And we stumbled downstream after them. (Some folks chose to swim.) And half kicked our behinds, cuz we thought #18 and #20 caddis hooks could hold those bucking broncos in a ripping current. And we won on the other half, and gripped and grinned and **WAAAH - HOOOED** and high-fived! We also stumbled into a few Epeorus mayfly hatches during the day. Ya'll ever seen a dozen big noses sipping #16 duns 20 feet in front of you? Buck fever! Slurp, oomph (hook set), line "unzips" water, and "dadgumit" hollers the Rabunite as he dances downstream on the Madison's green bowling balls. Shoot, we also got into the salmon flies between the lakes, fooled some fish, and caught a few on #6 dries that looked and cast like wisk brooms. We evened the score a bit at dark-thirty each night, when #16 caddis and, get this Guru research, #14 Adams parachute hooks gave us bigger bites into their jaws. **"Got a camera?"**



We did detour twice, to the Gallatin and Soda Butte. Both fished well, especially Soda Butte on Chernobyl ants at dark. The Green's skeeters and Gallatin's deer flies helped us to understand the utility of bug head nets, and the need to change shirt, pants, and underwear that afternoon. Boots off at 10 PM. Turn SUV back toward town. "What's open for supper?" "Hardly anything at this time of night, but who cares?" "Man, what a day!" **"Waaah - HOOO!"**

And we were blessed. We were blessed by that big Po-Lock who put his family first, and caused us to hit WY and MT at prime time due to the late runoff.

We made many memories and thought we'd share a few:

- \* Ski's March call: "I got you guys free plane tickets."
- \* "Ka- BOOM" (expletives deleted) as Dredger began his trip by crashing in the boulder field of stream #1. Nine points on Rabunite fall scale (hat stayed on). A carside, close inspection of a wet carcass revealed compound fractures of neither the ankle nor the rod. Motrins and ace bandages and back in business, cuz. "We're in WYOMING!!! Let's fish!!!"
- \* Dueling Nikons by Ski and Duluth Don, while the two other point-and-shoot cretins focused on fish catchin'. Thanks to Stream 2's momma and calf moose for their poses.
- \* The brilliant orange slash on the golden jaw of a hefty backwoods cutthroat. And another, and another. And a big ole "speck" sprinkled in on occasion. Those "exotics" were destined for the Ziplock.
- \* Hoover's awesome supper of Boston butt and fresh brookies on Green night 2 at Butch's cabin.
- \* Fat Tire, nightly.
- \* The elder Guru staying up past his 8 PM bedtime for a whole week and enjoying it!
- \* Dredger "hurdlin'" for his biggest Wyoming cutt with a "down, under, around, thru, and over" exercise in submerged timber, with The Guide cheerleading.
- \* Duluth Don's marvel at Hoover's "pinpoint casting and big brown sorelippin' clinic" on the Green drift.
- \* Guru realizing what the Green's "no anchor dropping" rule means to a rower's muscles.
- \* Duane spotting a rise, taking two steps forward, but then backing up, turning around, and hollering: "There's a real good'un here, Ski. Come on up." And watching my best friend of 30 years landing the biggest cutt of his life, courtesy of a True Sportsman.
- \* Eating lunch at Raynolds and letting the crowd thin. Then Guru and Ski stepping out and catching good'uns right in the wake of the departees. Guru smirking, "like small stream fishing at Dukes!"
- \* "Wow, you Georgians take your fishing seriously!" A quote by Pennsylvania Chuck, a lonesome trouterman who drove 1500 miles for his annual Madison fix, and whom we befriended. He marveled as the Guru washed down past him, still with the bent Winston held high.
- \* "Are you taking off your vest to go in and help your friend?" A concerned PA Chuck to Duluth Don, running to the bank.
- \* DD: "Naw, I'm grabbin' my camera!!!"

\* Guru and Dredger marveling at Ski's nimble "Raynolds Pass Polka" on a 45 degree riverbank of loose cobbles, dancing 50 yards downstream to earn the 18 inch brown.

\* Dredger succumbing to his lead addiction and testing his life insurance policy right below Quake. Wah- HOO, those Madison fish are behind those big boulders out there!

\* Guru's wide grin after finding and fooling a bunch of picky big'uns in the beaver pond braids above Raynolds.

\* "OhmyGawd" Dredger's case of buck fever as, ten feet above him and six inches off the bank, an 18 inch brown turned downstream, with his back out of the water, and opened his cavernous mouth to inhale the #6 Sofa Pillow. Trembles, then the "whoosh" of a fly ripped perfectly free from any fish lip due to a premature strike. The PC version of the subsequent holler is "dadgumit."

\* Duluth Don's National Geographic photo of the Yellowstone coyote in a midleap pounce for a field mouse.

\* The Soda Butte senior moment. Luckily, Guru returned to the parking lot in time to meet two Idaho anglers who had discovered the orphaned chest pack. To add insult to the injury of pride, however, one Idaho dude wore a Fish Hawk cap!

\* Using big, ugly flies on Soda Butte. "Stuff I can SEE," said Guru.

\* Keeping one eye on my dry fly 30 feet above me, while focusing the other on that bull bison about 20 yards to my right, just on the other side of Soda Butte.

\*Duluth dude finally discovering his drag-free Zen on Soda Butte by stepping out into the current and short-lining a bunch of real good'uns from the slow pocket at the head of the far bank's undercut.

\* Worrying whether a rusty Ski, trip-less since the '07 excursion and who ventured alone into a Soda Butte braid, had caught any. Then seeing him wading upstream to us, dragging a straining net bag in the current, and hollering thru a big grin, "**Hey, got a camera?**"

\* Creeping into a dark, quiet Cooke City on "E," at 10:30PM and only ninety crooked miles from warm beds. Then a local hollering at us, "The Sinclair pump over there takes credit cards 24 hours." The best \$4.70 a gallon we ever bought!

\* The Cooke City college kids who looked upon us with pity and said, "Hey, you guys look tired and hungry. We'll reopen the grill. Are ribeyes OK?" "**Waaah- HOOO!**"

\* "Thanks for an awesome week, guys," said DD. "Steaks'r on me!"

\* Dropping DD off at the airport after his week, and rubbing in the fact that our trio still had three more days. "We'll give you a Madison report tonight, Don. Have a great flight. **Waaah- HOOO!**"

\* Madison legend Bob Jacklin standing beneath The Fish on his shop wall and reliving The Fight for us.

\* The discovery of The Letter on the bank of The Other River (see September's Tight Lines).

\* A large number of samples for our collective research on reel drag efficiency.

\* Guru's concluding remark on the way home in Denver: "I've caught Costa Rican sails on a fly and a 22 pound brown in Tierra del Fuego but that, by golly, was my best fishing trip ever!" Motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous.

We hope you enjoyed these glimpses into the foursome's follies. Of course, this document is scribed in "Rabunite" ([www.rabuntu.com](http://www.rabuntu.com)), so those blood-oath members of the cult will enjoy the greatest proportion of this text. For those of you contemplating a trip, here are a few tips based mainly on our West Yellowstone experiences:

**1) Lodging:** we've enjoyed both Sleepy Hollow Lodge's

cabins in 07 and Janice Gruber's Lazy G Motel in 08. In WY, the Green River Guest Ranch is rustic (no coffeemaker or microwave), but it's clean and cheap, the beds are soft, the water's hot, the fish are big, and they're five minutes up the road!

**2) Food.** Breakfast: Running Bear Pancake House, Sleepy Hollow's "quaint" continental, or a McMuffin when trying to beat the park's morning tourist rush. Lunch: Arby's, Subway, the Ernie's Deli Fishermens' box lunch (owners hail from Fayetteville, GA), and our personal favorite - trail mix flavored with sunscreen and washed down with warm bottled water (we're in Montana! Who the heck wastes fishing time on lunch???) . Supper: Bullwinkles, Strozzi's Pizza, and those whopper hamburgers served "with personality" by Tawny at the Happy Hour Bar & Grill on 287 at Hebgen Lake. Sample: Georgian: "How's your burgers in this place?" The tall lass: "They taste like S\_\_\_\_. You want one?"

**3) Fishing Tips and Flies.** Blue Ribbon Flies is #1. Great website, weekly newsletters, guide books, and DVD's. Nice folks who take time for you. Ask for Craig or Bucky. Buy the flies they recommend and go to the streams they tell you to! They'll put you on fish, period. Others: Arrick's (a ton of tying stuff), Jacklin's, and the small fly shop at Slide Inn, just below Quake Lake.

**Angling Locales:** 1) Madison at \$3 Bridge, Raynolds Pass, and at the hiway marker halfway between Raynolds and Slide Inn, where the river has those awesome channel braids. Throw your first cast 6 inches from the bank, then cast a foot farther out for the next 5-10 feet of stream width. The fish are stacked into the little bit of slow water right next to the bank. Take zero to 2 steps into the river, make 10-20 foot long casts, and fish that ten feet next to the bank with perfect drag-free. Then move upstream 20 feet & repeat. Watch out; you'll be stepping on the good'uns! 2) Madison. For strong bodied, weak-minded fellers, try the raging braids right below Quake lake. Again, fish are piled into the little bit of slow water that you can read. Throughout the river, they're also stacked behind the biggest midstream boulders that 95% of anglers are too scared to wade within casting distance of. Remember, read the water and think slicks. 3) Gallatin's undercut banks from Speciman Creek downstream (north) to the park boundary. Again, fish are packed into the slow water. Stealth and a drag-free drift will get you bites, but don't fish before 10AM cuz the river's too cold. Cast far and catch zip. But if you sneak up closer and "drag-free," you'll need a 2 gig SD card in said camera. 4) Soda Butte's undercut banks in the first mile or two upstream from the Lamar. 5) Slough Creek at the parking lot or just downstream from it for big, PhD cutthroats that humble alleged experts. 6) The Green near Cora, WY. Fish it just like the Madison, or make your life easy and hire Butch or Hoover. 6) Any backcountry locale that Dream Trip Duane says is good. Where? IDBIS! **Waaah - HOOO!**

**Conservation:** Take good care of those fish so they can pose for more anglers on another day. Keep 'em in the water til your camera's all ready and focused, then snap a quick shot. Also, leave all the nasties out there by making sure you sanitize your equipment. Do not welcome whirling disease, mud snails, or other unwanted pests to your home waters (Jerseyans are exempted). See the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" website for guidance. Also google the "Madison River Foundation."

On our last evening, we once again hit The Other River. PA Chuck, found rigging in the Raynolds marker parking lot, appreciated the invitation to join the three Rabunites. We hit the river and split, half up and half down. The caddis danced and the fish inhaled. It was a grand finale. With darkness falling at 9:30 , I decided that the handful of fish taken from behind the midstream boulder were a great way to end, especially if I'd wade back to shore and live to tell about the trip. To the bank,

then downstream, then I'll cross that small backwater in front of me to get on the trail. Stop. Don't step in that puddle.. Look! Dimple. Minner or good'un? No clue. Hmm, okay, maybe just one last cast. Slurp! Five minutes' of adrenalin later, the second 19-inch brown of the evening slipped into my net and posed for a pic. I said "Self, that is the perfect end to the trip." The rod was broken down, the new friend was found, and the duo hiked back to join Guru and Ski. By car headlight we stripped off waders and exchanged tall tales as the Madison and its mountains faded into the darkness. It was, indeed, an awesome close to a magical expedition.

We were so blessed. And, as card-carrying and honorary Rabunites, our foursome hopes to share these blessings with ya'll through these tales and tips. "Passing it on" is the least we can do, because other folks had shared their experiences with us during our trip planning and helped to create our memories. Our special thanks go to Duane, Hoover, John and Hamp Cross, NGTO's Loopdawg, Tailwater TU'er Mark D, and especially Rome TU'er John G! Maybe our tales will encourage some of you reading this to save your pennies, mold your own Corps of Discovery, and go make some lifetime memories. May Landreth be out there to quietly guide you, too! Good luck and tight lines.

Oh, yeah, and practice these: **GOT A CAMERA?**

**Waaah - HOOO!**



### is NOT a GA TU Council Financial Sponsor

Every year for the last 5 summers, the GA Council of Trout Unlimited has organized and operated a conservation camp for kids ages 12 –15. During the weeklong GA Trout Camp, the campers spend one day with Forest Service (FS) and GA DNR professionals learning stream ecology, electro-shocking techniques and performing in-stream habitat enhancement on a public native brook trout stream. On the GA TU Council website, in appreciation TU has listed the Forest Service as one of the 22 sponsors.

Everything was fine until the morning of August 15<sup>th</sup> when a disgruntled boater visited the GA TU Council website and reported to American Whitewater (AW) that GA TU (who accepts the FS preferred alternative for the Upper Chattooga as a compromise) are being sponsored by the Forest Service. An officer of AW immediately called the Chief of the Forest Service in Washington and registers a complaint. Within minutes the word comes down the chain of command and by early afternoon a local USFS District Ranger calls Doug Adams, a member of the GA TU Council conservation camp steering committee.

Doug advised Charlie Breithaupt, Director of GA Trout Camp, of the phone call and the request to move the FS from "sponsor" to "partner." Charlie replied:

**Sent:** Friday, August 15, 2008

**Subject:** RE: Upper Chattooga Issue

Well, I did take the time... from my American Heritage Dictionary **Sponsor**-noun-1. *A person who assumes responsibility for another or others, as during a period of instruction.* That is pretty accurate for what the USFS does with our campers. **Partner**- noun *One of two or more persons associated in some common activity.* Either of these seems to work but what would AW have to get excited about if we changed. Perhaps we should pass along AW comments about Bass Pro, Cabelas', etc. CB

Doug contacted the website manager and by 6:30 PM the FS logo was removed as a "sponsor." Boaters can now check by clicking <http://georgiatu.org/> The Forest Service link remains in the Partnerships / Alliances page [HERE](#).

**okay? Geez!**

## What's New Elsewhere?

### Proposed DNR Budget Cuts could Close Burton Hatchery

The elected officials **ARE NOT** hearing from the public expressing concerns about closing WMAs, trout hatcheries and all of the other cuts proposed to WRD's budget. All of these program cuts impact us.....hunters and anglers. We are sending out a camo alert to our camo members to activate hunters and fishermen and others that care about wildlife conservation so they can let our elected officials know that we are concerned. I hope all of you do the same thing with your organization. I hope all of you are camo coalition members so you see the information we are sending out. If you are not a camo member go to [www.camocoalition.org](http://www.camocoalition.org) and join. It is a free service of the Georgia Wildlife Federation and a very easy way to contact your elected official. We are offering several suggestions in our alert on other things that need to be considered with the budget cuts.

The conservation community needs to show a strong presence at this September 25 meeting. This is a budget hearing not a public hearing so we will most likely not be allowed to speak but it will make a huge impression if they see a large number of hunters and anglers at this meeting. If each organization could send at least 5 people it would draw their attention in a big way. Anyone that goes needs to wear a name tag or something so the elected officials will know they represent a conservation group.

This is the classic case of the squeaky wheel gets the grease. We as sportsmen better be speaking up or we will be loosing our programs that we have worked for years to build. If we cannot get organized and rally our members on this issue we are doomed. If we do rally them and show a strong united front for wildlife conservation programs it will make a huge difference for many years. It will send a message to politicians that they better not mess with the programs that hunters and fishermen enjoy.

I hope your organization understands that this is a critical time. We had all better put a huge effort to rally our membership. We are rallying our members at the Georgia Wildlife Federation and I will be happy to help any of you. Please let me know what I can do to help you. Call me at 770-787-7887 (office) or 770-851-3136 (cell). Thanks! David Waller – Georgia Wildlife Federation

Final decisions on exactly how to cut spending await Gov. Sonny Perdue and legislative leaders. In the meantime, DNR Commissioner Noel Holcomb already has frozen hiring, stopped replacing old vehicles and equipment and curtailed all noncritical travel. Also, employees are unlikely to receive a promised 2.5 percent pay raise. Some of the cuts under consideration are:

> **Reduce cleanups at abandoned hazardous waste sites to save up to \$860,000.**

> **Eliminate 28 of 223 wildlife rangers who enforce hunting, fishing, boating and litter laws.**

> **Close the cold-water trout hatchery at Lake Burton in North Georgia and stock one-third fewer trout to save up to \$400,000.**

### MEETING NOTICE

**TO: MEMBERS OF NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE  
MEMBERS OF AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE**

Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Bill Heath, Vice Chair  
Senator George Hooks, Vice Chair  
**Senator Nancy Schaefer**

**FROM:** Senator Ross Tolleson, Chair  
Senator John Bulloch, Chair

**DATE:** Thursday, September 25, 2008

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** 450 State Capitol

## Status Update – Chattooga North Fork Visitor Use Capacity Analysis

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/>

The draft EA public comment period closed on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Almost 3000 public comments on the draft EA were received, about 500 on the last day. Comments can be read by clicking [HERE](#). The final decision will be released in Dec. 2008.

**Editor's notes:** *The public comments on the Pre-Decisional Environmental Assessment (EA) have been posted for several weeks for all to see. While "numbers" won't decide this issue, "numbers" do matter. Here are some interesting stats about the public comments:*

Total comments were 2907 (duplicate E-mails from the same person were not counted):

Total comments for protecting the values of solitude and remoteness of the upper Chattooga - 1908 (66%)

Total comments for unrestricted year-round, any water level boating access on the upper Chattooga - 999 (34%)

More important is total comments from GA, NC & SC were 2204: :

Comments from GA, NC and SC for protection of values - 1717 (78%)

Comments from GA, NC and SC for unrestricted boating - 487 (22%)

(comments for unrestricted boating access came from **43 states and 4 foreign countries.**)

An interesting comparison, total Georgian comments were 1526 (52% of all public comments):

Georgians for protection of values - 1320 (87%)

Georgians for unrestricted boating - 206 (13%)

Another interesting comparison:

Comments for protection of values from undisclosed locations - 33 (<2%)

Comments for unrestricted boating from undisclosed locations - 91 (>9%)

**Editor's notes:** *Sure, a lot of these comments were form letters and some people submitted several different form letters, for example: On 08/14/2008 10:01 PM, Roger Huff, a resident of Kennesaw, GA submitted a form letter for Alt 8 through the GA Camo Coalition [HERE](#) and on 08/15/2008 12:25 PM, Roger Huff, a resident of Chapel Hill, NC submitted a different form letter for Alt 8 through the NC Camo Coalition [HERE](#). Both were submitted from the same E-mail address. Milt Aitken, a resident of Marietta, GA, submitted comments from there on 07/26/2008 & 08/18/2008 and as a resident of Asheville, NC on 08/15/2008. Interesting.*

### Here are 2 interesting comments that came out of the Rabun TU Chapter's PO Box in Clayton:

**From:** [Amanda Huginkiss](#)

**Subject:** Stop stocking non-native fish!

**Date:** 08/14/2008 10:34 PM

Why are you allowing stocking of California & European fish?

Would you allow Russian boar & African Antelope to be stocked there also?

Amanda Huginkiss

Box 371

Clayton, GA 30525

**Editor's notes:** *Larry, next time you pick up the mail, please check to see if they are still in our PO Box. "A man to hug and kiss" might be perfectly happy in there with "Mike Hunt". You may want to ask Postmistress Phyllis Harmon if there are rules against people using other folks PO Box like this. Maybe the US Postal Inspectors would want to check into it.*

**From:** [Mike Hunt](#)

**Subject:** Smells Fishy!

**Date:** 08/14/2008 10:39 PM

All the alternatives smell fishy! They all favor the existing good ole

boy network! The study should be widened to cover all user groups.

How about horseback riding, mountain biking & dirt biking?

Mike Hunt

Box 371

Clayton, GA 30525

### However, there are plenty of comments that were thoughtful and sincere.

Below are a few excerpts from the public comments, in their own words (spelling and typos have been corrected):

**Date:** 08/15/2008

Please keep the Chattooga River in a wild and secluded state for our future anglers. This is one of the last wilderness rivers in this part of the country. Joseph Williams – Moultrie, GA

**Date:** 08/15/2008

In conclusion, the Chattooga is my home river and my favorite place to be in the world. The proposed actions to open this pristine wilderness setting are wrong. This case sets a standard for the entire nation on the forest service's ability to zone areas for the greater good. I simply cannot see how any of the proposed actions that allow boating can enhance the quality of the upper Chattooga. Marcus Leach - Clemson, SC

**Date:** 08/13/2008

I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion on the Upper Chattooga Environmental Assessment. The Upper Chattooga is a unique biological and cultural resource that will be changed forever by the human impacts associated with boating and would be best protected by no change in the current management. I support Alternative 1. I am both a fly fisherman and a kayaker. I kayak the lower Chattooga (section 3 and section 4) regularly. I fish the upper Chattooga regularly. I also own a home in Rabun

County just 2 miles from Earl's Ford. The Upper Chattooga should NOT be opened to any type boats/rafts, as that part of the Chattooga should remain a resource untouched by boats/boaters. RALPH GRIFFIN - Macon, GA

**Date:** 08/18/2008

I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion on the Upper Chattooga Environmental Assessment. The Upper Chattooga is a unique biological and cultural resource that will be changed forever by the human impacts associated with boating and would be best protected by moderate changes. I support Alternative 4. I am both a kayaker and a fisherman. I paddled those upper sections many years ago with two friends and did have a nasty encounter with a trout fisherman. We went by where he was fishing as far away from him as possible and making no noise and were berated and actually had a fly thrown at us in an attempt to cause injury. I believe serious kayakers (not tubes and rafts) should be given access to these incredible white water rapids in some limited and perhaps even controlled manner. Flow restrictions would be a must. I take offense with the statement by the anglers that this is "their" river. This beautiful river belongs to all and should be allowed to be enjoyed by all. Kirk Warren - Cumming, GA

**Date:** 08/15/2008

Gentlemen we hope you are aware there are very few places left in this state and in the country where it is possible to experience the solitude and nature at its finest of the Upper Chattooga. We respectfully request that it remain as it is now accessible by foot only. The boaters have a long stretch of the lower Chattooga and we do not want to take that from them, we just want to see a portion of one of the most beautiful rivers in the country to remain as it is. Larry H. Anderson – Stockbridge, GA

**Date:** 07/15/2008

Take this input for what it's worth. I've been a whitewater kayaker for the last five years and I have indeed seen many fabulous places made less fabulous by kayakers. One of the most beautiful places on earth is the Tallulah Gorge. I've had to stop going just because of the loud music in the parking lot. The illicit material smoked on both the stairs on the way down and on the river. The yelling and the swearing and the rock concert type attitude that comes from it. I've boated most of the sections of Chattooga and it's a magnificent place. The upper stretch that is the area of concern in my opinion isn't worth the amount of energy that some folks (AW) and some other people are putting into it. I think it's a place that if you want to go there you should hike it the access points aren't very good for kayaks anyways. Again in my opinion it's an entitlement attitude that certain parties in the boating community have. They think that they have the "right" when in actuality it's a privilege to paddle any "navigable" waterway. If I was on the committee I would stand on the boating ban for this section of the Chattooga that said I would also make sure that the fisherman are clearing away their monofilament line since that is a personal pet peeve of mine. I've seen too many birds wrapped up in a snarl of fishing line. Regardless I know you've been getting a ton of heat from a ton of kayakers etc. But in reality there's maybe 20 people in the country that would even put the effort into kayaking that section anyways. The rest of them are just yelling to be yelling. Just my take. Thanks, John C. Farrell - Atlanta GA

**Date:** 08/18/2008

I am writing to ask you to preserve the Chattooga River as it is now. As an outdoorsman in the Midwest, I am continually seeing our country destroy what few resources we have left. Opening up the river to boaters will only lead to further decline in these resources. I am asking you to raise the bar and become leaders in conservation. Brad Ritter – Owatonna, MN

**Date:** 08/14/2008

More boating water is not needed on the upper Chattooga. This is one of several attempts by American Whitewater to win a landmark ruling, with the ultimate goal of opening Yellowstone Park to boating. Please do not contribute to this cause. No boating should be allowed, and no changes are necessary. Wayne McDonald - Greenville, SC

**Date:** 08/15/2008

I use the Chattooga River during delayed harvest through the winter months. As a former kayaker, I feel there are ample choices in North GA as well as TN, NC and SC for these activities as compared to the shrinking trout streams we have access to. Although not my first choice, Alternative No. 4 seems to be a fair trade off although it affects the prime times I fish the river. Joseph Free – Lawrenceville, GA

**Date:** 08/14/2008

As an avid boat fisherman and a stream trout fisherman, I have come to realize that there are times when the two activities are best separated. This situation with the Chattooga River seems one of them. Jerry C. Ayers - Winston Salem, NC

**Date:** 07/12/2008

I would urge the council to not make any changes in this area. Some places are just meant to be wild and inaccessible without great difficulty. This maintains the spirit and adventure in those areas. The beauty and glory of being alone. Please do not make any changes to the current status of this area. James Pressley – Atlanta, GA

**Date:** 07/08/2008

I enjoy both forms of recreation and can see both sides of the issue. Alternative 4 is not a perfect solution but is probably the best one to allow all parties to participate in their chosen recreation and should discourage bad encounters between the two user groups. The fishermen get to use the river for most of the year and the paddles can use it when the levels are good for that and fewer anglers are fishing. Keeping the boaters up above Burrell's Ford is a good idea. As a paddler I find it somewhat puzzling that the boaters want to paddle the upper section so bad. I have found that most years the levels are too low for decent paddling. You will do a lot of dragging under those conditions. That is no fun. I have encountered "bootleg" paddlers in the section below Burrell's Ford on two occasions. In one instance they were totally unprepared for the Big Bend falls and the Rock Gorge and had no idea what they were doing. They ended up hiking their kayaks out of the river and back up the trail to the Burrell's Ford bridge. The second encounter was with 2 "extreme" (their word) kayakers who were very rude and obnoxious when I pointed out that paddling was not allowed in that area. I got 'the finger' and a rude "F--- you!" in response as they proceeded to paddle right over my fly line and then "played" in the pool I was fishing. I caught not one single fish after they passed by. Up to that point I was slaying them. It made me mad to say the least and does nothing to encourage me to support any plan that includes opening more of the river to boaters. Matt Bohler – Atlanta, GA

**Date:** 08/17/2008

It would be a real shame if the canoe HATCH was to be unleashed on the beautiful Chattooga River. I fish in northern Michigan and the canoes completely remove the wild and scenic from any river. There must be some very selfish boaters behind this and some people who really don't care about wild and scenic. J. Eric Hires - Temperance, MI

**Date:** 08/17/2008

I work for the National Park Service at Sequoia Kings Canyon and can attest to the fact that people need places set aside by Government Agencies to preserve and set aside for generations to come. Please don't let special interest groups affect your stewardship of precious resources and please continue to protect them. Gregory A. Gaxiola - Sequoia National Park, CA

**Date:** 08/17/2008

I've fished and boated many of the other streams available in the region, and of all the rivers, the Chattooga is my favorite. Why? Because it is remote and not easily accessible, meaning you can have a true wilderness experience. Increasing access in some of the proposed manners would go completely against the original intent of protecting this unique environment. Ralph Evans - Marietta, GA

**All comments by the public can be read by clicking [HERE](#)**

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*"All of us search for that perfect trout stream.  
Those who find it treasure it the rest of their lives.  
Those who don't keep on searching."  
From Trout Streams I've Known by Jimmy D. Moore*

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The following excerpt is reprinted with permission of the author, Bronwen Dickey, daughter of James Dickey, author of Deliverance

***"Sitting in the Rock Gorge, I looked around at the ice-sheathed cliffs and fallen trees spanning the water and wanted everything I could see to stay right like it was, as my father had once seen it. I wanted to lock the wildness of the river into the sandstone somehow so that it couldn't be touched by men, and climb back out—straight up—through the mud and undergrowth, crawling over decayed logs, tripping over vines, my lungs burning from the effort because there weren't any roads. In my heart, if not my head, I wanted the glittering, jade eyes of the last cougar in the South to study me from under a ledge. I wanted to feel that cold fear that sluices through your veins when you realize you're truly alone out in the wild—or that you aren't. Emerging from the woods at dark-thirty - -"***

From *The Last Wild River*, by Bronwen Dickey, in **Oxford American**, Summer 2008

Click <http://www.oxfordamericanmag.com/>



A fallen tree spans the water in the Rock Gorge of the Upper Chattooga.

Photo by Doug Adams

## **A Shared Upper Chattooga Memory**

By John Kies

I have previously read that letter found on the Madison and it really is very touching (TIGHT LINES, Sept. 2008). That is one reason why the Chattooga is near and dear to my heart - it is where I took my younger daughter on her first two backpacking trips - the first when she was maybe 10 years old. I guess it worked. She lives in North Carolina and spent several years here at one of the summer camps as the wilderness expert. She laughed when we went by the Chattooga one day and she saw how far we actually hiked on that first backpacking trip - maybe 1.5 miles south of Burrell's Ford if that far. She said it felt like 20 miles to a little kid. Our second trip went a bit further, this time north from Burrell's Ford. That was the site of the infamous nighttime fish feeding! We were camped near a nice stretch of calm but flowing water on a bend, with riffles above and below. In the late afternoon - this was probably in September - I saw and caught about a dozen fat grasshoppers and put them in food box. After dinner and just as it became true night, we went down to the river and I had her toss a hopper in. She was curious as to why and soon learned when out there in the dark was a single loud sloshing sound. And we proceeded to spend about the next 45 minutes feeding grasshoppers to the huge browns resident in

that pool. As our eyes adjusted to the dark, we could not actually see the fish, but we could see the major surface disturbance when they nailed those hoppers.

I took both my kids fishing of course and the older daughter wound up finishing her undergraduate work in Colorado and then lived in Wyoming for a few years - - hence this:



She then moved to Oregon near the Rogue River but is also coming to Hendersonville next month - not sure for how long.

### **Letter to the Editor**

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2008

**Subject:** Re: TIGHT LINES September 2008 Newsletter

The "lost creel" item was hysterical! Especially the 'fish skeletons and dynamite' bit. Thanks for a great laugh.

**From:** John Kies – Hendersonville, NC



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

## "BACKCASTING"

**Sept 6 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting** at Atlanta Fly Fishing School; 4 Rabunites attended. The agenda included: Minutes of Previous Meeting; Treasurer's Report; CEI Update; Trout Camp update – Plans for June 7-12, 2009; Dream Trip 2008 report and 2009 plans; BTB Intern Summary; Chattooga River Management Update; Fly Fishing for Vets; Mountaintown Creek update; Budget Concerns for DNR; New Chapter in Augusta; New TU Chapter in North Georgia; Saving Private Brooks; Outdoor Adventure Day September 27<sup>th</sup>; Scholarship at the UGA Warnell School of Forestry; Stover Creek Work project; & Nominating Committee for F/Y 2009 Officers and Executive Committee Members.

**Sept 11-14 (Thurs-Sun) 2008 TU Annual National Meeting** near Salt Lake City; 1 Rabunite attended, Charlie Breithaupt.

**Sept 16 (Tues) Chapter Meeting**, 17 folks attended. Nicole Hayler, Stekoa Creek Project Manager for the Chattooga Conservancy, presented the program. Nicole is also Chairperson of the "Fix Sewer System" Committee for the Stekoa Creek Watershed Task Force (5 TU members are on the Task Force). Nicole's presentation included an update of what actions have taken place in the past year, current activities, and mission of the task force. She also stressed the importance of the weekly water sample monitoring program and the value of the Trout Unlimited contributions. **Meeting raffle** had 10 buckets with 2 fly selections, a jar of local honey, a fly-fishing book, a fly box from Tom Landreth's estate, a maple bowl made by Travis and much more. The raffle raised \$76 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 members and guests who purchased raffle tickets.

**Sept 23 (Tues Afternoon) Stekoa Creek Watershed Task Force Meeting:** 4 TU members participated. All 4 committees reported.

**Sept 23 (Tues) Board of Directors Meeting** - 8 members attended. Agenda included: Update - Stekoa Creek Monitoring Project; State of Georgia Budget Cuts; Sept 27 (Sat) GA DNR Outdoor Adventure Day; Oct 4 (Sat) Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge Oct 21 (Tues) Chapter Meeting Program: Jeff Durniak – "The Other River: Madison"; Nov 18 (Tues) Chapter Meeting Program; Nov 5 – 8 (Wed – Sun) Camping and Fishing; Chapter Officers and Directors for F/Y2009; Oct 11 (Sat) Tallulah Falls Bluegrass & Folk Festival; Oct ? Lee Keefer Retirement Party; Update - Publicity, Public Relations, &/or Outreach; Annual Chapter Financial and Volunteer Hours Report; & Treasury Report



### Another Report from West of Hiawassee

Bisquits in the morning, drinks at night by the fire, cool crisp nights, hungry trout, long hikes, and a 20 incher on the east fork.

Good times - Jim Kidd, Charlie Breithaupt & Larry Walker

**WAHOO -- Hope your trip was as good**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our condolences to **Jean and Bill Kelly** on the recent death of her mother, Lucy Kimbell. **Tom Matthews** did so well with his recent knee replacement he is getting the other knee replaced. We wish **Jean Kelly** a speedy recovery as she undergoes chemo treatment.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Big Rabunite "WELCOME" to a **new member** this month: **Jerry Webb**, 205 Curt Dotson Dr. Clayton, GA 20525

Thanks for re-upping: **Jeff Durniak, Doug & Eedee Adams, Mitch Logan, Jim "Nugget" Nixon, Allison Adams, Ron Grob, Arthur Guthas, and Charles Cawthon,**

It is time to renew your membership: **Patsy Gentry, Jim Kidd, Doug Mansfield, Logan Justice, Tyler Kearns, Jim Blalock, Ronald McKenney, Mike Fuller, Taylor Marchman, Jacob Shelton, Randy Suddeth, Lewis Reeves III, Johnny Cannon, John Duncan, and John Patrick.**

### Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2008

**President - Jimmy Whiten**, PO BOX 881, TOCCOA GA 30577-1414

**Vice President - Larry Walker**

**Treasurer (w/Newsletter & Meeting Raffles) - Doug Adams**

**Acting Secretary (w/Communications) - Doug Mansfield**

**Past President (w/Membership) - Terry Rivers**

**Director (w/Programs & Campouts) - Bill Kelly**

**Director (w/Website) - Kathy Breithaupt**

**Director (w/Education) - Charlie Breithaupt**

**Director (w/Public Relations) - Ray Gentry**

**Director (w/Hospitality) - Ray Kearns**

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Ph 706 244 4345

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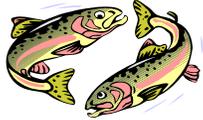
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E-mail [regentry@alltel.net](mailto:regentry@alltel.net)

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### From the Fly Tying Desk of Jimmy Whiten

What to do? With all the natural distress, gas prices soaring at a rapid rate, cost of living rising, banks failing all over the United States not to even mention the stock market falling (seems it never will hit bottom), unemployment on the rise, then there is the President election and all of the local elections to be decided, (if you do not vote then you are not entitled to complain) and do not forget the boating issue over on THE RIVER. With all of the above we have little control, in most cases, or no control at all.

With all of this the United States is still the best place to live in the world. I think many of us yearn for peace, comfort, and a sense of security in the midst of a world that is constantly changing. We certainly live in a changing time when our senses are bombarded by the news media, (seems like nothing we ever want to hear.)

Thank goodness for THE RIVER. Only a day on THE RIVER can get your mind off all of the above.

Happy Fishing,

*Jimmy*

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