



TIGHT LINES November 2008 Newsletter of the

Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited

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

*A pessimist is any angler who thinks the weather is too bad to fish.
An optimist is any wife who thinks her husband won't fish anyway.* Unknown

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)

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.

"As I mentioned before, if there's a little chop on the water your chances of spotting fish are greatly decreased, but there's an advantage to this situation: a little bit of riffle will cover your cast better and allow you to get away with being a little closer and using a heavier tippet and larger fly." From *Fly Fishing the High Country* by John Gierach

"FORWARD CASTING" Important Dates – See you there!

Nov 5 – 8 (Wed – Sun) Camping and Fishing at Long Bottom and with fishing in the Chattooga DH, backcountry, and front-country. You need to contact Terry Rivers Ph 706 782 7419 E-mail tlr1121@alltel.net He plans the menu and buys the grub!

Nov 18 (Tues) Chapter Meeting, 6:30 PM, Community B & T; Program - Dan Forster, Director of Wildlife Resources Division of GA DNR: "Update on the WRD budgeting process"

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

Dec 6 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting Annual planning meeting with USFS, GA WRD, and NPS. 9 AM at the USFS office in Gainesville

Dec 9 (Tues) Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner Social starts 6 pm and Dinner served 7 pm in the Rock House at the Dillard House. Cost is \$24 per person. Entire family invited, BYOB.

2009 Rabun Rendezvous - Saturday, Jan 24th
The Program will be presented by Noel Holcomb,
Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

FLY OF THE MONTH

by Terry Rivers



SOFT HACKLE

I HAVE SEEN THIS FLY TIED IN MANY WAYS, SO JUST USE YOUR IMAGINATION. JUST REMEMBER WHEN YOU BIND THE HACKLE DOWN IT'S DELICATE AND ONE OR TWO ROUNDS WILL GET IT DONE. COOLER WEATHER IS CLOSING IN AND THE DRY FLY SEASON IS SOON TO BE OVER. TIE A FEW OF THESE USING YOUR IMAGINATION AND I HOPE IT WILL BE OF SOME HELP FOR A GOOD DAY OF CATCHING.

HOOK: #12 TO 20 DRY OR SCUD

HACKLE: PATRIDGE OR FUSS FROM THE LEFT OVERS. USE YOUR IMAGINATION, GINNY FEATHERS ARE GREAT.

BODY: WOW - JUST GET SOMETHING COPPER, DUBBING, TINSEL, PEACOCK HERL, YOU BE THE JUDGE. LOOK AT THIS FLY; IT HAS NO BODY.

*"Mark well the various seasons of the year, How the succeeding insect race appear;
In this revolving moon one colour reigns, Which in the next the fickle trout disdains.
Oft have I seen a skillful angler try The various colours of the trech'rous fly;
When he with fruitless pain hath skimm'd the brook, And the coy fish rejects the skipping hook,
He shakes the boughs, that on the margin grow, Which o'er the stream a waving forest throw;
When if an insect fall, (his certain guide) He gently takes him from the whirling tide;
Examines well his form, with curious eyes, His gaudy vest, his wings, his horns are size;
Then round his hook the chosen fur he winds, And on the back a speckled feather binds;
So just the colours shine through ev'ry part, That Nature seems to live again in art."*

By Thomas Best

November 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 or #16 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
Blue Winged Olive & Blue Quill	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://main.nc.us:80/PCTU/>
Check out the article on page 4 of: <http://www.main.nc.us/PCTU/snagsandsnarls.pdf>

Tom Landreth Memorial Fund

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



"Autumn Magic" (on the Chattooga) by Tom Landreth
 (Click on the 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 October donors to the Tom Landreth Memorial Fund:

Russ and Margaret Burken – Toccoa, GA
 Frank Paul – Seneca, SC

North Georgia Trout Online, Inc. - \$1,000 Challenge Donation
 Cohutta TU Chapter – Marietta, GA

Georgia Women Fly Fishers – Atlanta, GA

To date, the donations have been sufficient to pay Rabun TU's share of helicopter costs for 10+ years, through 2017 (at the present challenge cost-share agreement amount). The funds are being held in a 12-month CD and withdrawals 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

"It was a true pleasure to call Tom a friend and conservation partner. He added so very much to the joy of Rabunite camp meals and tall tales. I do miss him in body, but have enjoyed him to this day in spirit. You see, he is part of a Rabunite cooperative to have fly selections ready for the 2009 Rendezvous. Tom's supplies will be forged with Dredger's labor to have some "can't miss" fly patterns available to lucky high-bidders. May this small contribution and its NGTO match help the Chattooga River to make memories for a new generation of Rabunites, one which will learn of the outstanding legacy of this fund's namesake. For a little guy, he sure left a large pair of wading shoes behind for us to fill. May we work together to step up and into them, as Rabunites should! Dredger" (a.k.a. Jeff Durniak)

Editor's notes: At the 2008 Rabun Rendezvous, Jeff purchased an assortment of Tom's fly tying materials.

"On behalf of the Cohutta Chapter of Trout Unlimited please accept this donation for the Tom Landreth Memorial Fund. Tom's unique outlook on art, fishing and life have had a profound effect on many of our members who shared his vision. We hope this donation will help carry on his spirit. Sincerely,"
 Kenneth Dye – Treasurer, CCTU <http://tucohutta.org/>

"When I went to get the mail today there was a small package for me. I figured it was a late submission for the raffle or something. Turns out it was a thank you letter from Rabun TU, along with two of Tom Landreth's personal post cards with what I am guessing is one of his paintings on the front. But that isn't even the best part, I also got three flies from one of Tom Landreth's old fly boxes. One of which was an olive cone head booger that looked like it had been fished hundreds of times. There is NO WAY these flies will EVER see the water."

Sam Thomas - Jefferson, GA

Editor's notes: The "thank you" we sent to Sam was for conducting the NGTO Tom Landreth Memorial Fly Raffle which, raised \$95 in memory of Tom. Click [HERE](#)

"I was hoping he wouldn't bring this out in the open, but since he did ... I want to thank the Rabun TU folks for this generous and incredible gift for Sam. He's already tickled pink about it, but as the rest of us know, he won't even be able to realize the true value of this great gesture until he's much older. He's very excited about it, but the old man ... well, I'm just plain touched. Thank you doesn't say enough." Sam's father

For more about the NGTO \$1,000 Challenge – click [HERE](#)

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)

Seventeen (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: **Ray Kearns** (11/4); **Doug Mansfield** (11/11); **Terry Rivers** (11/18); **CANCEL, Lab holiday** (11/25); **Kathy Breithaupt** (12/2); **Charlie Breithaupt** (12/9); **Gary Deal** (12/16); **CANCEL, Lab holiday** (12/23); **CANCEL, Lab holiday** (12/30); **Ray Gentry** (1/6); **Lea Richmond** (1/13); **Eedee Adams** (1/20); **Bill Kelly** (1/27); **Travis Barnes** (2/3); **Tom Matthews** (2/10); **Fritz Vinson** (2/17); & **Doug Adams** (2/24).

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

The Fix Sewer System Committee (with 2 TU members) of the Stekoa Creek Watershed Task Force (with a total of 6 TU members) has completed a draft Request For Proposal (RFP) covering a SEWER SYSTEM EVALUATION SURVEY. The survey will:

- Provide a comprehensive working document that merges all known information about the City of Clayton's sewage collection system, containing new data obtained from this Sanitary Sewer System Evaluation and previous studies including the Georgia Rural Water Report (11/2004), the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center map (1999), and the Woolpert Report & map (2005/2006).
- Provide an engineering functionality study that identifies system design flaws causing chronic infiltration and inflow events and includes recommendations for potential lift stations and other engineering strategies for correcting sewage collection system design flaws.
- Provide a prioritized schedule of proposed actions in conjunction with short and long term plans to fix the sewage collection system's infiltration and inflow problems.

On 11/6, Nicole Hayler, Chairperson for Fix Sewer System Committee, will be attending the city council work session to make the presentation of the RFP. On 11/11 the Stekoa Creek Watershed Task Force will make a brief presentation and ask for a formal resolution to issue the RFP.

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

Chasing a Memory at Lake Burton Fish Hatchery

By Patsy Lewis Gentry (10/8/2008)

The seasons were changing as I motored up Highway 197 through the North Georgia Mountains toward Lake Burton. I was chasing a memory by driving to a very special place often visited by my small children, now in their forties. A special dot on the side of the road where families like mine have cataloged experiences past and present for the remainder of their lives; Lake Burton Fish Hatchery.



You may ask, "Why a fish hatchery and why Lake Burton Fish Hatchery?"

For fifty plus years Lake Burton Fish Hatchery has provided fish for streams and lakes to over seventeen counties in Georgia, north to North Carolina and Tennessee, to the west to Alabama, east to South Carolina and south to Atlanta.

Fish culturing activities began late in the 1930's. On 12/27/51, Governor Herman Talmadge transferred \$15,000 from Georgia's

state general fund to the Game and Fish Department. This money was to be used for construction, improvement, underground water supplies and building fish pools (nine at Lake Burton Fish Hatchery). Commissioner Fulton Lovell said, "The lakes of NE GA can be made a 'fishing haven'." And, indeed Lake Burton Fish Hatchery has stood up to that promise for years.

Proving an average of 400,000 trout to Georgia anglers who spend 1.2 billion dollars per year on fishing activities; thus, impacting the state's economy with 2.3 million dollars. Lake Burton Fish Hatchery, the small dot on the side of the road, has helped to generate over 30,000 jobs as well.

Stopping at Lake Burton Fish Hatchery, with camera in hand, I began to walk about the hatchery pools smiling. I recalled forty years ago when my own children, John and Elizabeth peered into the cold clear pools stocked with thousands of lively trout. Standing on tiptoes, my John was mesmerized by the display on the Kiosk at the entrance of the Hatchery at how these fish actually hatched into beautiful Rainbows, Browns or Brook Trout. Like many other youths, my children's interest in fishery was sparked through this educational display. What kinds of trout are hatched here? How many trout are incubated each year? When are they old enough to be released into the scenic rivers and streams of N GA and surrounding states? Could I touch a trout egg? What has to be done to provide sterile conditions prior to incubation of the eggs? How cold is the water and why do trout

like cold water? You mean over 450,000 trout are raised in these nine pools each year?



Like so many parents and grandparents who have enjoyed the educational benefits of Lake Burton Hatchery, the picnic areas, the "Catfish Pond", public boat ramp and adjacent camping ground, I can not sing the praises of how much Lake Burton Hatchery has meant to my family.

Recently, I watched the Department of Natural Resources fisheries truck from Lake Burton Fish Hatchery unload trout into Smith Creek near Unicoi State Park during Unicoi Outdoor Adventure Day. One can only imagine the excitement of hundreds of children lining the streams in anticipation of "the catch". Many of these children had never caught a fish before.

Over 1600 family members attended this wildlife adventure program featuring falconry, boating, fly tying/casting, archery, police dog displays, hayrides and more. But, what was the highlight of the day? Why fishing of course! I overheard time and time, again, "Do you see the truck loaded with trout? It comes from Lake Burton Fish Hatchery. I have been going to the hatchery since I was a little child with my own parents. Now my young-uns are able to enjoy the same experiences I had growing up. Look, Sammy, at all those fish. Do you want to help the DNR man stock the stream with the net he is carrying?" In a second, the youngster was helping the official carrying the green net filled with wiggly trout to the stream. What an experience!

Tim Turner, Department of Natural Resource official said, "I hear time and time, again, how they remember when they came to Burton Hatchery as kids. Now, they are bringing their grandchildren. Really, our hatchery hasn't changed much since the 1950's." I thought to myself, "If it 'ain't' broken, why fix it!"

I, too, related to this man's comment. Likewise, I took my grandchild, Savannah to the catfish farm where she caught a fourteen inch catfish, brought it home, watched my husband skin it, cook the fish in a frying pan and she ate it all. She is still speaking of the adventure at Lake Burton Fish Hatchery. Another generation appreciating the quality of life the hatchery affords North Georgia.

Not only does Burton Hatchery cultivate, exchange and distribute fish to many of the streams and lakes, it provides a wealth of interpretive educational programs for scouts, school children and camps, builds fish habitats, stocks bass and wall-eyes in area lakes and catfish in smaller lakes, performs fishing

studies, and more. This is a busy little dot on the side of the road.

Leaving these pristine structures loaded with pools of various sizes of trout, I noticed two wildlife officials cleaning some weird boxes and contraptions with Clorox. I couldn't contain myself, "Just what are you doing", I asked.

Jeff, immediately perked up and stopped spraying, "Excuse me if I smell like Clorox, but we are readying our incubators for thousands of fish eggs due here in a few weeks from the Walhalla Fish Hatchery. We exchange eggs with other fish hatcheries if there is abundance. Our friends at the Hatchery in Walhalla have a surplus of eggs."



Startled, I was taken back by a loud splash coming from a pool in front of us. A number of huge brood trout of different species were swimming about in the cold running water. In each of the nine pools, the trout were at different growth stages of their life span. "How interesting to actually witness this first hand," I thought to myself.

Driving home, I had to make one last stop for one more memory connection; the fishing hole where Savannah caught her fourteen inch catfish. Laughing, I snapped a picture of dozens of snagged fishing lures, floats and lines wrapped around the electric line snaking across the catfish pond. A reminder of days gone by when Lake Burton Fish Hatchery planted a memory by giving a child a dream to chase; the same catfish pond were my grandchild caught her first big fish and snagged a "bobber" herself on the power line overhead.



"What a beautiful day driving home through the mountains. I had just chased a dream of the past at Lake Burton Fish Hatchery and created another."

Letters To & From the Rabunites

Sent: Sept. 22, 2008 by U.S. Postal

To: Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

On behalf of the Dillard United Methodist Church we thank you for your generous memorial gift. This gift will be placed in the church building fund in memory of Lucy Kimbell. Sincerely,

From: Doris J. Pierce – Church Secretary

Editor's notes: *Lucy was the mother of Rabun TU member, Jean Kelly.*

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Subject: RE: TIGHT LINES October 2008 Newsletter

It is always a pleasure to open your outstanding newsletter before opening the office - it helps me remember why I go to

work every day. So I can make enough money to someday stop going to work and go fishing instead!!

From: James Berrier – Chairman, NC TU Council, Lexington, NC

Editor's notes: *Thank you for your kind comments. For the past 12 years, retirement has been good for me.*

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Subject: Re: TIGHT LINES October 2008 Newsletter

Thank you for forwarding the legislation. I hope that everyone replies to the legislature. With all that is happening to the economy, we more than ever need to have the resources of sports available to us. A day on the stream voids my head of

everything else with the exception of the water and possibilities of a good day!

From: Gretchen Telke – Murphy, NC

Editor's notes: *I agree with you 100%.*

To: "Noel Holcomb" – Commissioner, GA DNR

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Subject: Budget Cuts

Noel, I certainly don't envy your task of making budget cuts. I'm sure you're getting plenty of "advice". I just wanted you to have a copy of what I sent the Governor. I'd love to see him take a bigger bite out of some of the other agencies, but I guess that's wishful thinking. I know you'll do your best to do represent the critters and those of us who love our natural resources. I wish you the best.

From: Larry Walker – Lakemont, GA

To: Governor Perdue,

Closing the Burton Hatchery would be bad economics. You may save a little state money, but you would lose much more revenue from trout fishermen and federal matching funds. To undermine the trout fishing economy makes no sense.

Also, please do not close the Lake Burton or Warwoman WMAs. To do so will doom the turkey population in our area because of the loss of wildlife openings and law enforcement.

More than half the time of DNR-WRD field personnel is already misdirected to drug enforcement. Better think of this impact before you eliminate these jobs.

I realize the economic situation will require some tough choices. I believe we should get DNR back to supporting the sportsmen and women who have supported it. We don't need golf courses and hotels that lose money. Sell them to the private enterprises that should have them and keep those fundamental resources such as trout hatchery's and WMAs viable.

Thank you,

From: Larry Walker – Lakemont, GA

Editor's notes: *Larry Walker is Vice President of Rabun Chapter of TU and Noel Holcomb will present the program at the next Rabun Rendezvous on Jan 24, 2009.*

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Subject: FW: October caddis

Wow what a good feeling that some people do read this

From: Terry Rivers – contributor of "Fly of the Month" for TIGHT LINES

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2008

To: Terry Rivers

Subject: October caddis

I started tying these a couple of days ago and then got the newsletter. At least I feel like I'm on the right track. I hope to get out on the river soon. Maybe the camping trip in November. See attached (photo).



From: Troy Meek - Gainesville, GA

Editor's notes: *October caddis was "Fly of the Month" in the Oct 2008 issue of TIGHT LINES*

Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2008

Subject: Method of Scoring Falls

Is there any way I could get permission to print the Rabunite Method of Scoring Falls in my book? I think that would be a hoot for the readers.

From: David Cannon - IDBIS Creek, LLC, Madison, GA

www.NoNonsenseGuides.com

Editor's notes: *David, you are granted permission in exchange for an autographed copy of the book. Just credit The Ole Rabunite of <http://www.rabuntu.com/>. To read the Rabunite Method of Scoring Falls, go to the May 2005 TIGHT LINES, click [HERE](#).*

Editor's notes: *The following is in response to the article titled "GOT A CAMERA?" in the Oct 2008 issue of TIGHT LINES.*

Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2008

Subject: Fwd: Your Story in Tight Lines

fyi on interpretation guide... It's obvious Don doesn't know Kelly and his storied past...

From: Dredger (a.k.a. Jeff Durniak)

To: Dredger

Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2008

Subject: Your Story in Tight Lines

I enjoyed your story very much, and wanted to share it with my wife, but I realized she wouldn't understand half of it without a translation guide. Attached (below) for your enjoyment.

From: Don Davis – Atlanta, GA

A Translation Guide - Rabunite to English

W of H – When Rabunites travel to fish, in any direction other than to the East, they refer to it as *West of Hiawassee*.

the Dredger – The nom de plum of Jeff Durniak, DNR/WRD Fisheries Supervisor, Region 2. Angler, adventurer and all-around raconteur (considered a valuable skill by brother anglers).

Hokie (Virginia Tech) – An institution of supposedly higher learning, Virginia Tech is a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference and plays cupcake football teams. For some reason, Durniak, a native of New Jersey, chose to attend VT, and then committed the grievous error of attending Tennessee. I'm surprised the Rabunites let him fish The River.

THE RIVER – When capitalized, references the Chattooga River.

"Meriwether" Adams – Doug Adams. Champion of THE RIVER, activist with TU, and friend of Dredger. Wife – Eedee.

"Jim Bridger" Kelly – A nice man, I'm sure, whom I've never met.

IDBIS – The standard reply from a Rabunite when asked "Where'd you catch'em?" Stands for *I don't believe I said*.

Guru – Jimmy Harris, Unicoi Outfitters. Has an answer for any situation.

Dream Trip Duane – Duane Stalnaker. Local guy, fishes a lot, wanders out W of H from time to time. Guides a trip offered by TU in an annual raffle. Please don't remind me how many tickets I've bought!

Hoover – Kyle Burrell, member of Rabun TU chapter, guides on various rivers. Know as Hoover because he *vacuums* fish others can't catch.

Happy Hour Bar & Grill – Purveyors of what surely MUST be a tasty burger.

Waaa Hooo! – The sound of a Rabunite having fun, in pain, happy, sad, confused, lost, etc. When heard on a trout stream, if you don't see a floating hat, then someone scored a fine fish.



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

A Rabunite Fishing Tip

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



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.grquestranch.com/>
Dates July 25 – 31, 2009
- 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)
- \$1,000 in travel expenses (this is total, not per person)

For complete rules and details visit www.georgiatu.org

Runner up prizes will include custom made fly rods, fishing trips, and boxes of flies.



Winner will be drawn at the Georgia Foothills Chapter of Trout Unlimited annual banquet the "Hoot on the Hooch" in Helen, GA on March 21, 2009. One winner will be drawn and the winner will choose a partner to accompany them on the trip. Several other winners will be drawn for the runner up prizes which include; custom made rods, fishing trips and flies. The seller of the winning ticket will also receive a prize. Ticket price is \$10 and proceeds will go to the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited to help fund Council projects and the Back the Brookie campaign which helps brook trout restoration and educational projects.

Contact Prez Jimmy Whiten for your raffle tickets: Ph 706 886 6546 E-mail jimmywhiten@nctv.com

"BACKCASTING"

Oct 4 (Sat) Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge – 6 Rabunites participated. The Rabunites helped about 55 scouts from the North GA Council with the requirements for the fly fishing merit badge. After each Boy Scout prove that he could apply the lessons taught by the Rabunites, the TUErs signed off that particular requirement for their Fly Fishing Merit Badge.

Oct 21 (Tues Afternoon) Stekoa Creek Watershed Task Force Meeting – 3 Rabun TU Members participated in the task force meeting facilitated by US EPA's Georgia Watershed Coordinator. Stacey Bouma. See **Stekoa Creek Update** for more info.

Oct 21 (Tues) Chapter Meeting, 23 folks attended. **Jeff Durniak** (a.k.a. Dredger) presented an excellent program on "The Drag Free Drift". The outline of his program was in TIGHT LINES, December 2007, page 2. Click [HERE](#) The Chapter officers and directors were reelected for F/Y2009 and 2 new directors were added. The new directors are Jim Kidd and Pat Hopton.

Meeting raffle had 11 buckets with 2 fly selections, a jar of local honey, a fly box from Tom Landreth's estate, 2 headlamps, trout coasters, and much more. The raffle raised \$125 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.

Oct 25 (Sat) Lee Keefer Retirement Dinner, 3 Rabunites attended. Rabun TU Chapter presented Lee Keefer (retiring WRD coldwater fisheries biologist stationed at Burton Hatchery) a framed LE Tom Landreth print titled "Chattooga River" in appreciation for his years of dedicated work preserving, protecting and enhancing the trout resources in Northeast Georgia..

Oct 28 (Tues) BOD Meeting, 12 members attended, including the 2 new directors. Some of the agenda items included: Update: Oct 4 (Sat) Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge; Rabun Rendezvous Letters asking for Donations; Rabun TU Letter to Governor about Hatchery; Dream Trip Raffle ticket sales; Rabun TU - Sponsor 2 Kids for 2009 Trout Camp; Nov 5 – 8 (Wed – Sun) Camping and Fishing; Nov 18 (Tues) Chapter Meeting Program: WRD Budget Process; Dec 6 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting; Dec 9 (Tues) Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner; Update: Annual Chapter Financial and Volunteer Hours Report plus CEI and IRS filing; F/Y2008; Gifts to other TU Chapters of tom Landreth Prints; Update: Publicity; Treasury Report; Tom Landreth Memorial Fund; and 2009 Rod Raffle.

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 18th. Almost 3000 public comments on the draft EA were received, about 500 on the last day. Two-thirds of the comments called for protecting the values of solitude and remoteness of the upper Chattooga and one-third of the comments were for unrestricted year-round, any water level boating access on the upper Chattooga. The E-mailed comments can be read by clicking [HERE](#). The final decision will be released in December 2008.

Some uninformed boaters followed instructions and E-mailed the Forest Service the same “form” message (see below):

Date: from 08/14/2008 10:42 PM thru 08/15/2008 10:56 AM (just 12 hours) –100 comments were sent through the GA Wildlife Federation’s Camo Coalition <http://www.camocoalition.com/> with all E-mails exactly the same: *“I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion on the Upper Chattooga Environmental Assessment. The Upper Chattooga is a unique geological and cultural resource that is being polluted and destroyed with the stocking of non-native fish in the wilderness area and would welcome the introduction of low impact sports such as boating. I support Alternative 8.”*

Editor’s notes: *Actually, there has never been a stocking of any fish species (including trout) in the wilderness area. Additionally, the fishery in the wilderness area is very healthy, much better than 22 years ago. See below for the 2008 results of the Annual Electro-Shock Sampling of Chattooga North Fork fishery.*

Q & A about the Chattooga North Fork’s FISHERY

Editor’s notes: About 60 to 70 people turned out from SC DNR, GA DNR, USFS, Interns, and TU volunteers for the July 23rd Electro-Shock Sampling in the Big Bend section. 6 Rabunites plus crews from Chattahoochee/Nantahala and Gold Rush Chapters were volunteer participants. Thanks to all for a job well done!

Q – What were the results of the July 24th and 25th Annual Electro-Shock Sampling of Chattooga North Fork?

A – Even in the 3rd year of the drought, the fish population diversity and quantity indicated very good water quality and stream health.

At Big Bend on 7/24: The 3-pass sampling of a 160-meter long stretch produced 14 different species of fish; only 2 of them were trout (browns and rainbows). The non-trout species (in order of abundance) were: Stoneroller (793), Bluehead Chub, Warpaint Shiner, Mottled Sculpin, Striped Jumprock, Longnose Dace, Yellowfin Shiner, Redbreast Sunfish, Mirror Shiner, Turquoise Darter, White Sucker, and Blacknose Dace.

Wilderness area downstream of Ellicott Rock on 7/25: The 3-pass sampling of a 164.4-meter long stretch produced 15 different species of fish; only 2 of them were trout (brown and rainbow). The non-trout species (in order of abundance) were: Mottled Sculpin (1,395), Mirror Shiner, Yellowfin Shiner, Stoneroller, Bluehead Chub, Warpaint Shiner, Striped Jumprock, Longnose Dace, Roseyside Dace, Redbreast Sunfish, White Sucker, Turquoise Darter, and Blacknose Dace.

To learn more about these species, visit <http://www.nanfa.org/>

Q – How many trout were captured in the samples?

A – **At Big Bend on 7/24:** There were 3104 fish captured and released, 47 were trout (1.5%). There were 39 browns and 8 rainbows. Most of the browns were wild (stream hatched) and there were 10 “young-of-the-year” browns.

Wilderness area downstream of Ellicott Rock on 7/25: There were 4464 fish captured and released, 92 were trout (2.1%). There were 91 browns and only 1 rainbow. Most of the browns were wild (stream hatched) and there were 23 “young-of-the-year” browns.

Q – How does this compare with 22 years ago?

A – **Wilderness area downstream of Ellicott Rock:** The same section was sampled 9/20/1986 (also a drought year) using the same technique. Only 12 of the present 15 species of fish were captured in 1986. In 1986 there were 674 fish captured and released (compared to 4464 this year), 24 or 3.6% were trout (compared to 92 or 2.1% this year). All 24 were browns (0 rainbow) with 7 “young-of-the-year” browns (compared to 23 YOTY this year).

Q - Why the huge (560%) increase in fish quantity and the increase in species diversity in just 22 years?

A - Probably the improved water quality (less sedimentation) is the biggest factor. Weather patterns may also be a factor.

Q - What species of fish would have been native at Burrell’s Ford before Europeans arrived, say around 1600?

A – *“I don’t know if anyone has answered your question yet, but I will give you my opinion. I think that there were probably warm water species present at Burrell’s Ford at that time, similar to what we see there now. Because of that, I doubt that there were any brook trout that low in the watershed, since they do not compete well with large populations of chubs and suckers.”*

There is a possibility that there were no brook trout in the Savannah drainage at that time. Most native populations of brook trout seem to be in west slope (Tennessee) drainage streams south of Virginia, but records are lacking to determine this with any certainty. Native populations exist in east slope streams, but they may have originated from the transfer of fish from “over the mountain”. Others and I have talked to old-timers who remember granddaddy hauling fish from one creek to another way back when, because the creek had no fish in it, and he felt it needed some. Also, fledgling game and fish agencies moved a lot of fish in the 1940’s, 50’s and 60’s, and most records of such activities were sketchy or non-existent at that time.

At this point, we assume that the southern brook trout are native to the Savannah watershed because of the existing populations in GA and SC streams and the lack of evidence to the contrary. Even so, I still doubt that brook trout were present at Burrell’s Ford even in 1600. Others may disagree with that view, but there is no hard data anywhere to support such a position.”

Submitted by: Lee Keefer, Coldwater Fisheries Biologist - Retired, GA Wildlife Resources Division, GA DNR

What's New Elsewhere?

The following an excerpt from The Clayton Tribune
<http://www.theclaytontribune.com/>

Local artist (and Rabun TU member) wins stamp competition

By Justin Raines, Staff Writer (11/30/2008)



Local artist Broderick Crawford colors a canvas at his gallery on North Main Street in Clayton. Crawford recently won a renowned stamp competition in Colorado, which will raise money for wildlife habitat restoration.

Two black bear cubs explore tan autumn grasses high upon a mountain ridge while their mother keeps her guard, scenting the wind for threats. Behind them the aspen leaves burn fiery gold against a background of birch-white trunks. That scene, depicted by local artist Broderick Crawford, recently won first place out of 16 contestants in the Commemorative Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp competition, which drew entries from across Canada and the United States. Terrie DeLoria, coordinator with the Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation, called Crawford about two weeks ago to tell him that he'd won. "She was kind of messing around with me and told me I was a finalist," Crawford said with a grin. "She finally told me I won it, which was a really, really good feeling. It's only the second time I've entered that." The stamps will be sold to users of Colorado's public lands. Proceeds will aid in wildlife habitat restoration. About 500 limited-edition stamps will also be printed for sale.

The stamps should be available in early December and can be purchased at the shop's online page at www.cwhf.info. Crawford will also have limited edition prints available at Crawford Art Gallery on North Main Street.

<http://www.broderickcrawfordart.com/contact.htm>

To read more, visit [HERE](#)



(click on logo)

Mission: The mission of the STOP I-3 Coalition is to preserve and protect the unique heritage and environment of Southern Appalachia and nearby Piedmont communities by promoting sustainable transportation practices.

Current Goals: The Coalition prevents construction of Interstate 3 or any similar, destructive highway in Southern Appalachia or nearby Piedmont communities. The Coalition educates the public about the unique heritage of Southern Appalachia and the

special nature of its environment. The Coalition seeks to effect sound transportation policies at local, state and federal level

The following is an excerpt from an AJC article

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

'Go Fish' project goes ahead — despite huge cuts elsewhere Governor's \$23 million fishing tourism center in Perry is criticized

By James Salzer, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (10/26/2008)

Amid state employee furloughs and calls for massive spending cuts, work is set to begin this week on the \$23 million Go Fish Center down the road from Gov. Sonny Perdue's home in Houston County. Department of Natural Resources officials said Perdue signed the contract to get the project moving earlier this month. That was two months after he told state agencies to cut spending 6 percent to make up for a projected \$1.6 billion budget shortfall. But the cutbacks — which will affect everything from schools and health programs to veterans — didn't include Perdue's Go Fish Center, which was approved for funding more than a year ago. Perdue's proposed cuts were for spending approved by lawmakers this year, not in 2007. The facility, which will include a fish hatchery, welcome center, exhibits and public fishing ponds, is the most expensive piece of Perdue's Go Fish program aimed at increasing fishing tourism in the state. It is being built in Perry. Although many of them voted for the budget that included the Go Fish money in 2007, Democrats decried the decision to go forward with the project while the state faces a fiscal crisis. "This sends a terrible message when you Go Fish at a time you're asking people to make real-life sacrifices," said Rep. Al Williams (D-Midway), chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus. "It's hard for me to explain this to my constituents." To read more, click [HERE](#)

The following an excerpt from The Clayton Tribune

No decision yet on Burton Hatchery

By Justin Raines, Staff Writer The Clayton Tribune (10/16/2008)
The future of the Lake Burton Fish Hatchery is still in limbo. So far there has been no word from Gov. Sonny Perdue's office directing budget cuts that would affect the hatchery. "There has not been a decision made to my knowledge," state Rep. Charles Jenkins said. "In fact, the governor will probably not make a decision within the next few weeks." In August, Perdue's office ordered all state agencies to create plans that would cut spending by up to 10 percent in a move to offset a projected \$1.6 billion budget shortfall for fiscal year 2009, which began July 1. In response to Perdue's request, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources released a list of proposed budget cuts, which suggest 6-, 8- and 10-percent reduction plans. DNR has not received directives from Perdue's office to implement anything beyond the 6-percent plans, which currently do not effect the hatchery. To read more, click [HERE](#)

Editor's notes: 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:

- > Close the coldwater trout hatchery at Lake Burton in North Georgia and stock 31% fewer trout to save up to \$400,000.
- > Abandon all WMAs within the National Forests (including Burton & Warwoman WMAs in Rabun Co.) to save up to \$390,000.
- > Eliminate 28 of 223 wildlife rangers who enforce hunting, fishing, boating and litter laws to save up to \$1,400,000.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Big Rabunite "WELCOME" to a **new member** this month: **Tim McClure**, 140 Byway Trail, Clayton, GA 30525

Thanks for re-upping: **Glen English, John Hoppes, Bill Thompson, Bob Biebel, Thomas West, Dean English, Wayne Gipson, Steve McCall, Tom Nixon, Julie Kilby, Mike Hamilton, Doug Mansfield, Lewis Reeves III and Maria Rodeghiero.**

It is time to renew your membership: **Tracy McCoy, Pom Sinnock, Patsy Gentry, Jim Kidd, Logan Justice, Tyler Kearns, Jim Blalock, Ronald McKenney, Mike Fuller, Taylor Marchman, Jacob Shelton, and Randy Suddeth**

"There are cases where stocking has hurt populations of wild trout but there are also cases where stockers have acted as a buffer between anglers and wild fish. It's hard to make general statements because each situation is unique. But for the most part, intelligent and appropriate stocking programs tend to remove pressure from wild trout waters, if for no other reason than that stocking increases the amount of fishable water."

John Gierach, "The People's Trout" in Flyfishing magazine March-April 1984

Editor's notes: John Gierach is exactly right, particularly here at the southern reaches of the Appalachian Mountains where summer drought conditions can play havoc with marginal coldwater fisheries. For most Georgia trout anglers, stock trout were our introduction to the joys of trout fishing and the wonders of mountain ecosystems. Delayed Harvest trout stream management provides the "training wheels" for the next generation of coldwater conservationists; and DH management is 100% dependent on stocking. With that understanding, the Rabun Chapter's Board of Directors authorized the following letter to Governor Perdue:

Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P. O. Box 371
Clayton, GA 30525
October 30, 2008

Honorable Governor Sonny Perdue
Office of the Governor
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Perdue:

The Board of Directors of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited representing 160 members wishes to express our concern for the future of the Lake Burton hatchery.

The members of Trout Unlimited are passionate about trout fishing, but our passion goes far beyond our personal enjoyment of this wonderful sport. We are also passionate about conserving our forest and streams, about improving aquatic life habitat, about introducing our youth to the wonders and beauty of the outdoors, and about preserving our natural resources for future generations. Without the presence of the Lake Burton hatchery we could accomplish none of this. I hope you agree that in good economic times these would be reasons enough to keep the hatchery in operation, but the people of North Georgia who may have never heard of Trout Unlimited or the Burton hatchery and who may have never trout fished stand to lose the most if the hatchery is closed.

One may disregard all the other benefits of the trout stocking program provided by the hatchery, but the economic benefits cannot be ignored. If the Lake Burton hatchery were to be closed, the local economy of North Georgia would lose millions in retail revenue and the State would lose millions in tax revenue. The cost of maintaining the hatchery pales in comparison. The actual numbers have been reported repeatedly in the public press.

Governor, we hope you see the compelling reasons to continue to support the Lake Burton hatchery. It is an important resource to North Georgia and all of the State of Georgia. To put this facility on the chopping block would be to kill the goose that hatches the golden eggs.

Respectfully yours,

Doug Mansfield

Doug Mansfield, Secretary - Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited
cc: Lt. Governor Casey Cagle
Congressman Paul Broun

Editor's notes: The time is NOW to send a personal, handwritten note to our Governor expressing your concern over this matter.

FISHING REPORT

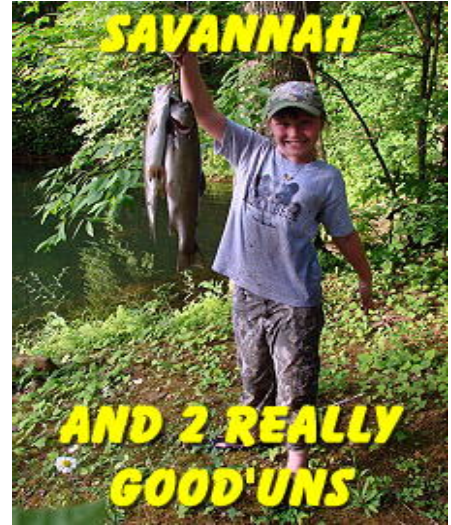
Recently, our granddaughter, Savannah came to visit us in the mountains. Her favorite thing to do is to go fishing with Ray-Ray. Well, this time, Ray-Ray decided to take her to one of the North Georgia streams to fish with an overnight camp out in his small camper. You would have thought Savannah has won the lottery. She could barely contain herself as we made our way to the river. This would be her first campout overnight and Ray-Ray was taking her fishing.

Well, you can see what she caught! Two eighteen inch rainbows. Never have I seen a grandchild so happy. She held both fish in her lap all the way back to the campsite even kissed the slimy critters. Upon entering the campsite, she said, "Stop, Ray-Ray and let me out". Then she proceeded to walk through the campsite carrying both of those fish while all the campers ran out chanting, "Little girl where did you catch those two fish?" "Up the river," she said grinning from ear to ear as she strutted.

Savannah turned eight on September 19. We have just picked up one of her rainbow trout, which we had mounted. The other she ate for breakfast at the campsite.

From: Ray and Patsy Lewis Gentry, Rabunites - Sautee, GA

Editor's notes: Savannah made a memory that will last her a lifetime with 2 trout that originated in the Burton Hatchery



THE RABUNITE BEAR by Broderick Crawford

As an extra fundraiser for the Christmas Tour of Homes, the Rabun County Board of Realtors asked local artists to "paint" fiberglass bears for a silent auction. Broderick Crawford said the inspiration for his bear at Black Rock Station came from a friend. "It was a short, pudgy bear and it looked kind of like Charlie Breithaupt," Broderick said of his friend – a Rabunite. Hence, The Rabunite Bear. By October 31st, the bidding for The Rabunite Bear was up to \$1,000. The money raised by the bears will help local families during the holiday season.



Now is the time to begin the application process for Georgia Trout Camp 2009.

Think - your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, neighbor's kids, or any kid that is excited about the outdoors and fishing.



(Click logo for more info)

Rabun Chapter will sponsor 2 campers. Here are a few facts and instructions:

Camp Dates: June 7 (Sunday) - June 12 (Friday); **Cost:** \$400 per camper; **Deadline to apply:** February 28, 2009
Includes room, board, and all activities for the five-day camp.

Instructions: Applications must be completed and turned in to Rabun Chapter 2/28/2009.

Rabun Chapter will select 2 campers from the applicants to sponsor by 3/24/2009.

(Campers must be within the ages of 12 – 15 at time of camp)

Each of the 12 chapters in Georgia has two spots to fill and each chapter decides how they want to select their campers. Once a chapter chooses a camper, the application, along with their tuition check, is forwarded to the Trout Camp Coordinator (Charlie Breithaupt). Campers will be notified of their acceptance as soon as possible. Later, around early May, more detailed information will be sent to each camper.

Information and application forms are available on the Council website <http://georgiatu.org/>

Questions and/or concerns should be directed to the Camp Coordinator. Charlie Breithaupt; 194 Kitchens Lane; Clayton, GA 30525 knc615@windstream.net (706) 782-6954

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to Rabunite **Broderick Crawford** who recently won a renowned stamp competition in Colorado, which will raise money for wildlife habitat restoration. See the article in the "What's New Elsewhere" section of this newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS to Rabunites **Amanda and Brooks Adams** on the recent birth of their son, **Calder McHale Adams** - *Calder is Scottish, meaning "from the wild river"...there are other versions as well, including Irish, meaning "stream"; McHale is the married name of Amanda's aunt Lola, a very treasured aunt.* Mom and baby Calder are doing fine. The entire family is thrilled, including Rabun TU members Auntie **Allison Adams** and Grandparents **Eedee and Doug Adams**. **Avril** is simply over the moon to be a big sister! See Calder's picture on the Rabun TU website: <http://www.rabuntu.com/>

"After high school, I chose Central Michigan University, partly because of nearby trout streams, partly because of duck marshes and grouse cover. I remember one fall when I rented a shack seven miles from town. The shack was on a dirt road and in ideal hunting and fishing country. When I got tired of studying, which was often, I just picked up the appropriate gear and walked out the door to trout, ruffed grouse, wildfowl, deer, pheasant, and cottontails. Owing to these, I stayed around long enough to graduate."

From "Seasons of the Angler" by Ron Rau, 1989

Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2009

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

Vice President (Notices in newspaper) - **Larry Walker**

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

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

Past President (w/ Campouts & Rod Raffle) - **Terry Rivers**

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

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

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

Director Ray Gentry

Director Ray Kearns

Director Pat Hopton

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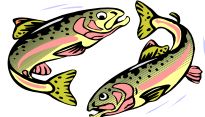
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From the Fly Tying Desk of Jimmy Whiten

A hard day at the office - Owning a plumbing business one has the opportunity to pay social security to help finance the full time anglers. It was a cool Tuesday morning, almost noon to be exact, when I was finishing up some paper work in the office and about to go out to look at a job and work up a proposal, I was explaining to the ladies that sets up all of our dispatching and different jobs that I was going to lunch and to a local plant to look at a gas job and would do the pricing tomorrow. Karen never looked up nor miss a letter on the key board and with a slight grin on her face she replied "*happy fishing*". (Huh, wonder how she knew I was going fishing. No fishing gear in truck. Lucky guess, I guess)

Within minutes with hamburger in hand I was on my way doing a final mental check in my mind, did I load everything I needed the night before? Sure I did! With the window down and a nice cool breeze blowing thru the truck cab, I was soon on my favorite part of the drive, the winding road and the leaves had just begin to change colors.

As I pull into the parking lot I counted 9 vehicles already there. Do I rig up here or do I wait until I am on the river, and then there was my answer. A car was just turning in. Time to go. They may be wanting to fish in my hole. Going up the trail by the river, in a short time I could see an angler in the water. He turned and with a quick look at me without a smile and no words, I knew I should go further up stream to my other secret fishing hole.

As I was coming back down the winding trail in the dark with flashlight in hand as usual I was asking myself why didn't I leave just a little earlier. By staying late the rewards were so great. Almost bed time I walked in and supper was ready. My wife had already eaten. I yell as usual, "*I'm home dear, it has been a tough day at the office.*" Never looking up from her book and with a slight grin on her face she replied "*did you catch any fish?*" My reply was "*a few*". (Wonder how she knew I went fishing? Lucky guess, I guess. She knew not to ask where I had fished that day.)

Happy Fishing, *Jimmy*

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/site/c.kkLRJ7MSKtH/b.3022897/k.BF82/Home.htm>

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 \$1.26 per newsletter mailed:

E-Mail edadams1@alltel.net

RABUN CHAPTER of TROUT UNLIMITED

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