



TIGHT LINES December 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/>

"An angler is a man who spends rainy days sitting around on the muddy banks of rivers doing nothing because his wife won't let him do it at home." Author Unknown

THE DECEMBER MEETING is the ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER!

In the Rock House at the Dillard House – 2nd Tuesday December 9th
6:00 PM Social (BYOB) & 7:00 PM Dinner with the Awesome Dessert Table

Cost: \$24 per person - Reservations Required.

You must contact Doug Adams to reserve your place! E-mail edadams1@alltel.net or phone 706 746 2158.
There will not be a raffle at the Annual Christmas Dinner.

"Fishing books, lit by emotion recollected in tranquility, are like poetry.... We do not think of them as books but as friends. They are our companions and not only riverside.

Summer and winter they are with us and what a pleasant company they are."

From The Fisherman's Library by Arthur Ransome (1959)

"FORWARD CASTING"

Important Dates – See you there!

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. Reservations Required. Entire family invited, BYOB. Contact Doug Adams to reserve your place! E-mail edadams1@alltel.net or phone 706 746 2158

Jan 20 (Tues) Chapter Meeting 6:30 PM, Community B&T, Program: Jimmy Harris "Madison, the Other River"

Jan 24 (Sat) 22nd Annual Rabun Rendezvous; Program presented by Noel Holcomb, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Jan 27 (Tues) BOD Meeting 6:30 PM, Community B&T.

FLY OF THE MONTH

by Terry Rivers



BLUE QUILL

WHEN TROUT ARE SEEN FEEDING ON THE SURFACE, LOOK REAL CLOSE FOR LITTLE SAIL BOATS. THEIR WINGS WILL BE TRANSLUCENT. THEY ARE USALLY SEEN ON CALM WATER. LOOK CLOSLY, THEY ARE SMALL. SEE Y'ALL ON THE RIVER.

HOOK: STANDARD DRY FLY SIZE 16-18

THREAD: GRAY OR TAN 8/0

BODY: DARK GRAYISH MAHONY DUBBING OR BLUE QUILLS

TAIL: MEDIUM DUN HACKLE BARBS

HACKLE: MEDIUM DUN

WING: NATURAL MATCHED GRAY DUCK QUILL OR HEN NECK FEATHERS

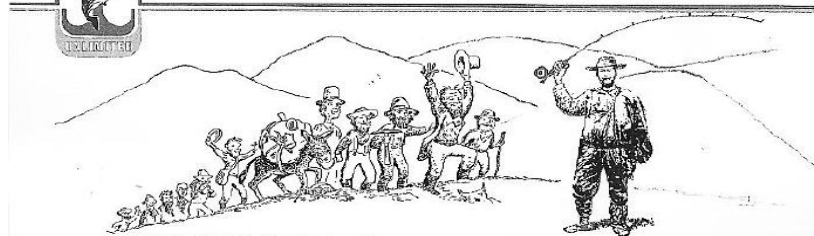
"Personally, I now prefer to name every freshly devised fly pattern, which I easily imagine to be original, after recalcitrant chorus girls I have known. Even though the list, of necessity, is mercifully brief, there is something more appealing about using a Toots O'Sullivan Hopper or a Misty Bubbles Baetis than a Roberts' this and a Roberts' that.

After all, according to Misty, "Beauty is in the fly of the beholder." "

By Don Roberts, "Against the Current" in Flyfishing the West October 1981

December 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
Blue Winged Olive & Blue Quill	All Month	Late AM to Mid PM	16-20 BWO, Blue Quill or Adams Parachute 16-20 BWO nymph or Pheasant Tail
Midges	All Month	All Day	18-22 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa



**The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited proudly presents
A Celebration Of Rivers, Streams, Trout, and Trout Fishing**

Please Join Us for the 22nd Annual

Rabun Rendezvous

"The Rendezvous was unlike anything before or since, a gathering of uninhibited men down from the mountains. The event attracted perhaps a hundred mountain men, their indian wives, and assorted visiting tribesmen. Amusements included gambling, drinking, storytelling – continuing day and night." Quote from The Mountain Men by George Laycock

When: Saturday, January 24, 2009

Where: The "NEW" Dillard House Conference Center (doubled in size), located behind the Dillard House in Dillard, Georgia.



Who: The more the better. Everyone interested in protecting our cold-water resources, including their families, friends, and all who love clean cold streams, trout, and trout fishing.

Social: About 5 o'clock PM folks will start gathering to "pick the pig" and enjoy the rocking chairs on the porch of the Conference Center. There will be snack trays of cheeses, crackers, veggies with dips, and fruits. Soft drinks and ice will be available. If you want something stronger, better bring it yourself. There will be a fire inside to warm your buns.

The Foxfire Boys (as seen in the Chattooga River episode of TUTV's "On The Rise") will again generously provide their 'down home' style of bluegrass picking and singing for your musical entertainment.

Remember to ask about The Foxfire Boys CDs (now 4 of them), which will be available.

The large screen TV will be showing the Rabunites trout fishing some of their favorite 'secret spots'. This will be the ideal time to be looking over the raffle and silent auction items. **We welcome donations of raffle and auction items at the door, fellow TU'ers.**

There will be a special auction for a framed 'pen & ink' Tom Landreth original: "Brook Trout" (never before offered)!

Dinner: Fish, chicken, and pork with all the side dishes and desserts that have made the Dillard House so famous, will be served about 6:30. It is a serve yourself buffet, so you will not leave hungry.

Program presenter will be Noel Holcomb, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Cost: \$30 for adults and \$25 for youth of 15 and under. Cash or personal checks are fine (this is the first year we will also be able to accept VISA & MasterCard credit cards). We don't do advanced tickets or reservation; just pay at the door.

Lodging: The Dillard House has set special rates for rooms starting at \$49 (plus tax) for those that call and **tell them you're attending the Trout Unlimited Rabun Rendezvous**. Call: 706-746-5348 or Toll Free 1-800-541-0671

You must say you are there with Trout Unlimited to get the special rate.

The 2008 Rabun Rendezvous funds provided for the following: Sponsorship of student interns working in NE GA fisheries with the GA WRD and the USFS; Sponsored two youngsters attending the GA Trout Camp; Financial support of the GA DNR Smithgall Woods Conservation Education Program; Lab fees for the Stekoa Creek Monitoring Project; Kid's Fishing Events at Black Rock Mountain State Park (GA DNR) & Tallulah River (USFS); National TU's "First Cast", "Embrace-A-Stream", & "Back-the-Brookie" Programs; Trout Magazine subscriptions to all school & public libraries and 3 state parks in Rabun County; and Challenge Cost Share Helicopter stockings in the backcountry of Chattooga's North Fork (fall) and West Fork (spring).

'Website-of-the-Month': <http://www.randrflyfishing.com/>

For a HI-VIS BWO, check out this: <http://www.randrflyfishing.com/2008/09/08/fly-tying-the-hi-vis-parachute-blue-wing-olive/>

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

Nineteen (19) 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 winter is as follows: **Tim McClure** (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); & **Kathy Breithaupt** (3/3).

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

Stekoa Creek Watershed Task Force - Summary of Meeting - October 21, 2008; 1:00-3:00 PM

The Stekoa Creek Watershed Task Force meeting was held at the Community B&T meeting room. Fourteen people participated in this meeting (including 3 members of Rabun TU). Stacey Bouma (US EPA Region 4) introduced Constance Alexander, US EPA, who has a background in communications and has participated in the development of communication strategies.

Decisions and Action Items Assigned

- Task Force meetings will be changed from monthly to quarterly. Next meeting will be in late January (date TBD).
- Committees will continue meeting between Task Force meetings and committee leads will provide an update midway through the quarter.
- Task Force adopted the Vision statement prepared by the Stekoa Creek Vision and Master Plan Committee (SCVMPC).
- Task Force adopted the outline for the Stekoa Creek Watershed Management Guide. Committees will need to provide input to the SCVMPC for incorporation into this guide.
- Draft letter of support on behalf of the Task Force for 319 grant to City of Clayton (Stacey Bouma)
- Determine what volunteer efforts would be considered as a match for the 319 grant funds.

Committee Reports

Vision and Master Plan Committee: Linda Johnson said that the committee is waiting for the Task Force to adopt the vision and outline for the Stekoa Creek Watershed Management Guide in order to continue further. The Task Force made the decision to adopt both of these.

Secure Funding Committee: Chuck Mashburn reported that the City of Clayton had a conference call with GA EPD to discuss the Section 319 grant related to failing septic systems. The work plan for the grant will need to be tailored (failing septic systems, GIS monitoring, septic tank inventory, etc.). The grant is for \$180,000 and would require a match of \$120,000. The match can include donated land and labor (e.g., City personnel, volunteers, etc.). Some examples may be the monitoring by Chattooga Conservancy and Trout Unlimited volunteer time to

drive the samples to a certified lab. The Vision Committee could send out an email to collect volunteer information.

Fix Sewer System Committee: Nicole Hayler shared a draft Request For Proposal (RFP) for review and comment. The RFP was presented to the Clayton City Council on 11/4 and 11/11. The RFP deliverables shall include:

1. 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)
2. An engineering functionality study that identifies system design and operational flaws causing chronic infiltration and inflow events, and that includes recommendations for potential lift stations and other engineering strategies for correcting sewage collection system design and operational flaws
3. A prioritized schedule of proposed actions in conjunction with short and long term plans to fix the sewage collection system's design, operational, infiltration and inflow problems, with a budget cost estimate for each step
4. A preliminary schedule of proposed work
5. A quarterly report on progress with a brief presentation of results, and a final report containing all data, analyses, and recommendations.
6. A budget estimate for annual maintenance costs for the sanitary sewage collection system (independent of the budget projections for short and long term proposed actions to repair/upgrade the sewage collection system)
7. An updated sewage collection system map.

Improving Compliance with Regulations Committee: Ed Dibble gave an example of how one regulation refers to another regulation, which refers to another regulation, and that it will be a difficult task to pull out the information needed for a short concise summary.

On November 12th, the Clayton City Council passed a motion to accept the Fix Sewer System Committee's RFP. Now the Secure Funding Committee must find the sources of funding.

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.

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN FLY TYING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sponsored by: Trout Unlimited Chapter 692

Cash Prizes

1st Place \$100
2nd Place \$50
3rd Place \$25

Entry Fee - \$10 per entry

includes both your

MANDATORY & "TIEBREAKER" FLIES

The Rules:

To enter you must tie and submit two flies. The first fly is the MANDATORY fly, the Hazel Creek, pictured below along with the recipe. The second fly, the TIEBREAKER, is any fly of your choice. You must also submit the recipe for your TIEBREAKER, and it must be a fly that you would fish with. All flies submitted become the property of Trout Unlimited Chapter 692.

For complete details, picture & recipe for the "Hazel Creek", Click http://www.ngatu692.com/Fly_Tying_Contest.html

Editor's notes: The following is reprinted from the Georgia Outdoor News (GON), December 2006. <http://www.gon.com/>

Rabunite Ramble

Dear Santa,

I've been a good old angler this year. I've released most of the trout I've caught. I did keep a few dumplins* for camp meals, but never more than the law allows. I was a mentor to kids at the Georgia TU Trout Camp, the local Boy Scout Troop fishing outing, and the Forest Service's Kids Fishing Event. I've volunteered for a workday on a brook trout stream habitat enhancement project with GA WRD professionals leading the work. I've only got a few things to ask you to bring.

1. Please bring stiff penalties to all those that violate our erosion and sedimentation laws.
2. Please help our state representatives enact buffer laws that adequately protect our trout streams.
3. Please help us stop the pollution of Rabun County's Stekoa Creek. For more information, visit [HERE](#)
4. Please bring a STOP to the proposed I-3. The greatest threats to trout streams are sedimentation and elevated water temperature, which result from land use practices that disturb natural conditions. The best mitigation efforts are unable to adequately stem the silt, petroleum runoffs, and thermal pollution that are integral to the construction and use of interstates. There is no corridor through the Chattahoochee National Forest capable of avoiding the destruction of some of Georgia's precious trout habitat. For more information, visit [HERE](#)
5. Please bring us more trout stream sections zoned for foot travel only. Conflicts between different forms of recreation use have arisen with increasing frequency in recent years. The root cause for rising conflicts is simply the increase in demand for most forms of outdoor recreation. Zoning can ensure that different types of users are physically separated. Zoning can provide sections of streams where anglers and other visitors can walk or wade in to find wildness and solitude without interference from nontraditional, mechanized, or motorized users.
6. Please bring a cooler summer with lots of rain. Santa, I know the past summer was not your fault. But if you could just fan some of that North Pole air down to Georgia next August it would be a big help.
7. And please bring me a case of beanie-weenies and crackers. A can of beanie-weenies with crackers beside a trout stream is my favorite lunch.

Your friend, *The Ole Rabunite*

PS Also, if it is not too much trouble, please bring me a dozen size #20 parachute Adams. I hate tying those small flies!

*dumplins - A Rabunite term for freshly stocked trout dumped from the bridge.

PPS 2008 "wish list" update: Please help to keep the Burton Trout Hatchery in operation

Letters To The Editor

Sent: Saturday, November 01, 2008

Subject: RE: TIGHT LINES November 2008 Newsletter

Two things: 1. Awesome newsletter! I laughed out loud more than once while reading this issue. It's great to have such a quality publication coming out of a local TU chapter... for free! Great job on it and thanks for taking the time every month to put together such a great newsletter.

2. As to the article re-published from the AJC regarding the Go Fish Georgia Initiative, as I understand it, Go Fish was funded not by taxpayer dollars, but through the issuance of bonds whose funds were to be used only for this specific program. Rep. Al Brown could easily have explained the decision to go ahead with Go Fish to his constituents if he would have taken a few minutes to educate himself on the details of the funding of the

program. The tourism dollars that should come into our state because of this program should generate some much-needed revenue for Georgia.

From: David Cannon – Madison, GA

Sent: Friday, November 14, 2008

Subject: newsletter

I just read your last newsletter and I want you to know I really enjoyed it. I am a member of Hammonasset TU as well as Thames Valley TU in Connecticut. Loved the story about the hatchery I never stopped to think about our hatchery here but it has produced many fish that I caught and released and have enjoyed many hours over the last 21 years doing so.

From: John Springer - Wallingford, CT

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.

THE RANT | BY BILL STIEGER

Ramming Speed!

Modern mini kayaks can navigate small streams, but that doesn't mean that they should.

LAST SUMMER, I WAS FISHING on the upper section of western Wisconsin's Kinnickinnic River—the narrower section, where on weekends I can avoid the flotilla of canoeists that clog the larger water below the city of River Falls. The trout weren't rising to any insects, and my mayfly imitation had been drifting unmolested for quite a while. I clipped off the Adams and was about to tie on an Elk-Hair Caddis when I heard a clunking from upstream. From around the bend appeared a vessel that resembled a fuchsia elf shoe with a human torso sticking out of it. The torso was frantically stirring the water with one end of a double paddle in the effort to avoid skewering me, so I leaped out of the stream.

"How's the fishing?" asked the kayaker as he paddled past me.

He was gone before I could give him a piece of my mind.

A New Foe

I'm aware that I seem uncharitable about the incident. After all, it was my first encounter with a kayak on that section of the Kinni. It's only a kayak, right? I mean, why grouse? Navigable waters are for everyone, and kayakers ought to be allowed anywhere they can float. I



The author shows his Cheesehead colors on the banks of the Upper Kinnickinnic, which he believes should be wading-only.

sales in recent years.

So now, there is no refuge. No waterway free of mobs. But here's the deal: I go fishing to escape mobs. And the kayaker has the gall to ask, "How's the fishing?"

Canoes, which are a fact of life on larger Midwestern streams and rivers, have

resent an all-new menace, and the limits of my tolerance have been reached. I must draw a line in the water somewhere.

And then there is the matter of aesthetics. The modern, polyethylene kayak is an ugly, vulgar artifact, unlike its Eskimo forebear. Why is it that kayak manufacturers choose to make their products in the most eye-frying colors of the color wheel? Day-Glo orange. Fuchsia. Porta-Potty aquamarine. Pink. Tie dye, for heaven's sake! The damn things come in the colors of bath toys. I half expect a bar of Ivory soap to float behind each one of them.

Kayaks represent an all-new menace, and the limits of my tolerance have been reached. I must draw a line in the water somewhere.

guess. In theory, a kayaker's riverine rights are difficult to argue against, but I am sulfuric in my attitude toward kayaks on small trout waters.

These miniature watercraft enable their owners to navigate streams that were impossible to float in canoes. These days, it seems as if the smaller kayaks could float in a rain gutter. Further, kayaks take less skill to maneuver, cost less, are smaller, and more easily transported. These qualities have led to the explosion in kayak

always been merely an irritant to me, and I have worked hard, over the years, to accept them. I trained myself to bite my lip as an aluminum-borne flotilla of teens boomed over the watery rocks, its passengers bellowing war whoops between swigs of Leinenkuegels. Sure, a string of canoeists could ruin the fishing on a summer afternoon, but I resigned myself to the need to coexist with them.

But kayaks on narrow streams were not a fact of life until recently. They rep-

Holding the Line

I know, I know: I'm a curmudgeon. Anyone who opposes anything is subject to attack because the mantra of the present day is that *We must be tolerant*. This is, after all, America, where tubby citizens enjoy nature primarily by driving some sort of vehicle over it. Did I mow down your wildflowers and rip up your trails with my four-wheeler? Too bad. You say my Jet Ski is too loud? Tough. You don't like my snowmobile smogging the

atmosphere in Yellowstone Park? Who cares? You don't like the straight pipes on my Harley Softail? Stick it where the sun don't... and so on.

Yes, yes, I realize that kayaks are environmentally friendly and that many sportsmen own them. And, yes, I realize some models are specifically designed for anglers, even fly fishermen. There are sea kayaks, surf kayaks, stunt kayaks, fastwater kayaks, and more. Hell, there's probably an Amy Winehouse kayak, for all I know. Fine. I have no issue with kayaks when they're paddling waters of proper proportion.

I also realize the futility in trying to prevent kayakers from paddling small waters. I should, as they tell the rehabbers to do, accept the things I cannot change. I accept the existence of mosquitoes. But that doesn't mean I love them. I use high-power insect repellent. But there's nothing I can spray on that'll make the kayaks go away.

I have learned, in the days following my incident on the river, that the canoe livery here in River Falls is shutting kayakers to and from the upper Kinnickinnic. Yesterday, a friend—another acerbic angler—to whom I had mentioned my encounter, reported having to evacuate the upper river as a pod of eight miniature kayakers drifted through the riffle he was fishing, the paddlers grinning and waving like royalty from a float in the Rose Bowl parade, infuriating him with inquiries like, "How's the fishing, dude?"

"How'd that make you feel?" I asked.

"I wanted to set those damned people on fire!" he said with wry laughter.

Perhaps I'd be more convivial to the small-stream kayakers if there were some restorative justice in the offing. If kayakers have the right to intrude on my solitude and ruin my sport, why am I not allowed to do the same? Wouldn't it be fair, after that their having frightened away the fish and forced me out of the stream, that I be awarded the right to capsize one or two of them? I mean, if kayakers have the right to ruin my sport, oughtn't I to have the right to ruin theirs? I believe so. 🐼

Bill Stieger lives in River Falls, Wisconsin, along the banks of his beloved Kinnickinnic River.

WWW.AMERICANANGLER.COM

What's New Elsewhere?

Excerpt from article published in the Athens Banner-Herald

<http://www.onlineathens.com/index.shtml>

Saving the fish one habitat at a time

By Erin Rossiter (11/1/2008)

Fly-fishing requires well-seasoned patience and respect for out-of-the-way places in nature most people never travel. Athens anglers often drive an hour or more, then hike a good ways to find the cold water streams where eastern brook trout swim. Rods in tow, fishing men and women learn their environment and pick, or create, imitation flies made to fool. Sometimes that means going a whole day with just a fish or two, or maybe none at all. And when there is a catch, many times, those fish are unhooked and returned to the water. The slow-paced hobby takes the kind of calm and patience older men spend years mustering. So imagine Ken Calkin's surprise when he attended his first Trout Unlimited meeting for the Oconee River Chapter and found a teenager at the helm. "He was in charge the whole meeting. Everything was taken care of, under control," Calkin said. "He knew all the people." And they knew him - Joshua Trey Barnett from Jackson County. "College kids are looking awfully young these days," Calkin said to someone in the group. They answered: "He's still in high school." "I said, 'No way!'" Calkin added. Barnett, who turned over his presidency of the chapter to Calkin before entering the University of Georgia this year, is part of the conservation group known to members as TU. Under Barnett's leadership in recent years, the local chapter has grown to nearly 350 members, with up to 50 routinely participating in meetings and workday events geared around improving natural fish habitats. Today, the Oconee River Chapter is the third largest TU group in Georgia, which has 3,500 members. When Barnett started attending, there were less than 10 active members, locally. "We've had a significant increase. I think a lot of it has to do with communication," said Barnett. To read more, go to: http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/110108/liv_350422029.shtml



To read more, click on: http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/110108/liv_350422029.shtml

What's New Elsewhere? (Continued)

Presidential Action Ensures Recreational Fishing in Federal Waters

Alexandria, VA (9/26/2008) On September 26, President George W. Bush signed an amendment to the 1995 Executive Order on recreational fishing. This historic amendment ensures that federal agencies must maintain recreational fishing on federal lands and waters, including marine protected areas. Once implemented, this policy will provide access to places where men, women and children can enjoy fishing now and in the future. The Executive Order revises Executive Order 12962 signed in 1995 by President Bill Clinton. Mike Nussman, CEO of the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) said, "As a recreational angler and boater himself, the President clearly understands that sportsmen and women are conservationists first and foremost and that recreational fishing is an essential component of the nation's heritage." ASA Vice President Gordon Robertson said, "Every time American anglers buy fishing licenses or sportfishing equipment, an investment is made in fishing's future. This highly successful user-pay system for fishery management depends on access to the resource." To read more, click on [HERE](#)

PUBLIC OPINION

- * Surveys show that the public places a high priority on knowing that fish and wildlife populations are properly managed. Ninety-six percent of respondents say this is extremely, very, or somewhat important.
- * Among the general population, 93 percent of people approve of recreational fishing and 77 percent approve of legal hunting.
- * Among the general population, the vast majority say that education and enforcement are the most important areas of focus for the Wildlife Resources Division in the next ten years.

SOURCE: "Direction for the Decade," Responsive Management, September 2002

WATER

- * Water quality and water quantity are two of the most important natural resource/environmental issues facing Georgia. Georgia residents say water quality is of greater concern to them than water quantity.

"Understanding the Georgia Public's Perception of Water Issues," Responsive Management, Nov. 2003

"BACKCASTING"

Nov 5 – 8 (Wed – Sun) Camping and Fishing during the Long Bottom outing was enjoyed by 22 Rabunites. Chattooga River fishing (backcountry, delayed harvest, and front-country), camping, fellowship, story telling, camp cooked meals (with Dutch oven deserts), and the wood fueled stove were wonderful. It was the best campout of the year. Don't miss the outing in November 2009. Our thanks to Terry Rivers for organizing the campout and to everyone that brought firewood.

WAAAAAHWHOOOOO!



The fall colors during the campout were spectacular. The below photos were made in the Chattooga North Fork backcountry.



Photo by Jim Kidd

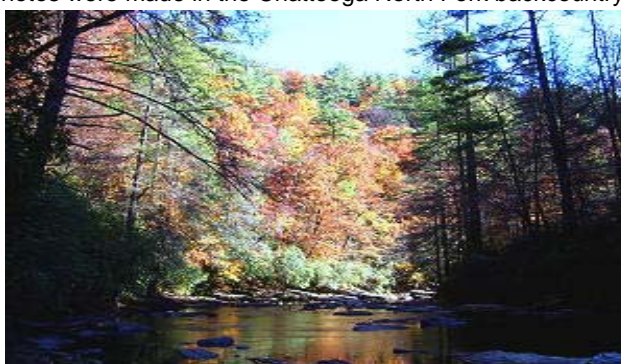


Photo by Doug Adams

"BACKCASTING" (Continued)

Nov 18 (Tues) Chapter Meeting - 26 Rabunites attended. Program presented by Dan Forster, Director of Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) of GA DNR, and John Biagi, Chief of Fisheries for WRD: "The WRD budgeting." Below are the facts:

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division



MISSION STATEMENT

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division protects, conserves and manages Georgia's wildlife and freshwater fisheries resources; protects endangered wildlife and plants; enforces the Georgia Boating Safety Act, the Georgia Hunter Education Program and regulates the sale and possession of wildlife.

SECTIONS AND DUTIES

Fisheries Management: Manages and conserves freshwater aquatic habitats and sport fish populations by monitoring angler harvests, angler preferences and conducting fish population surveys; proposes regulations to meet angler preferences while conserving fish populations; manages fish hatcheries and public fishing areas, including construction and maintenance of boat ramps, fish habitat, investigations involving fish kills and pollution, and provides technical assistance.

Game Management: Manages and conserves wild game populations, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, waterfowl and other species; conducts game population surveys, provides technical assistance; regulates hunting, and manages wildlife habitat, include forestry practices such as prescribed burns and maintaining wildlife openings.

Law Enforcement: Protects Georgia's natural resources and public safety by enforcing laws, rules and regulations concerning game and nongame wildlife and plants, exotic animals, boating safety, litter, waste control and other natural resource issues.

Nongame Conservation: Protects and conserves nongame wildlife and threatened and endangered animals and plants and their habitats by conducting research and surveys, identifying critical habitats, cataloguing rare species, conducting education programs, implementing species recovery plans, and providing technical assistance.

License and Boat Registration: Manages hunting and fishing license sales and boat registration through an automated system currently available at more than 1,000 license dealers and on the Internet. Changes are coming soon for this unit.

WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION ASSETS

- * 89 Wildlife Management Areas
- * 9 Public Fishing Areas
- * 9 Fish Hatcheries
- * 136 Boat Ramps
- * 6 Regional Education Centers
- * 16 Shooting Ranges
- * 6 Archery Ranges
- * 21 Natural Areas

THE ECONOMICS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

**1.1 million hunters
& anglers spending
\$5 million a day.**



FISHING

Approximately 1.1 million anglers fish in Georgia each year and spend about \$1 billion, which has an economic impact in the state of more than \$1.9 billion.



HUNTING

Georgia ranks #1 in out-of-state hunters. More than 481,000 people hunt in Georgia each year. Hunters spend about \$678 million annually, which has a total economic impact in the state of more than \$1.1 billion.



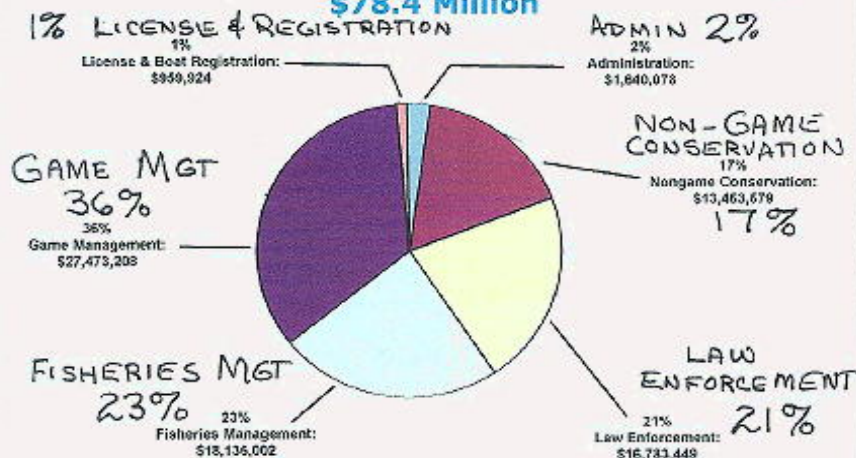
WILDLIFE WATCHING

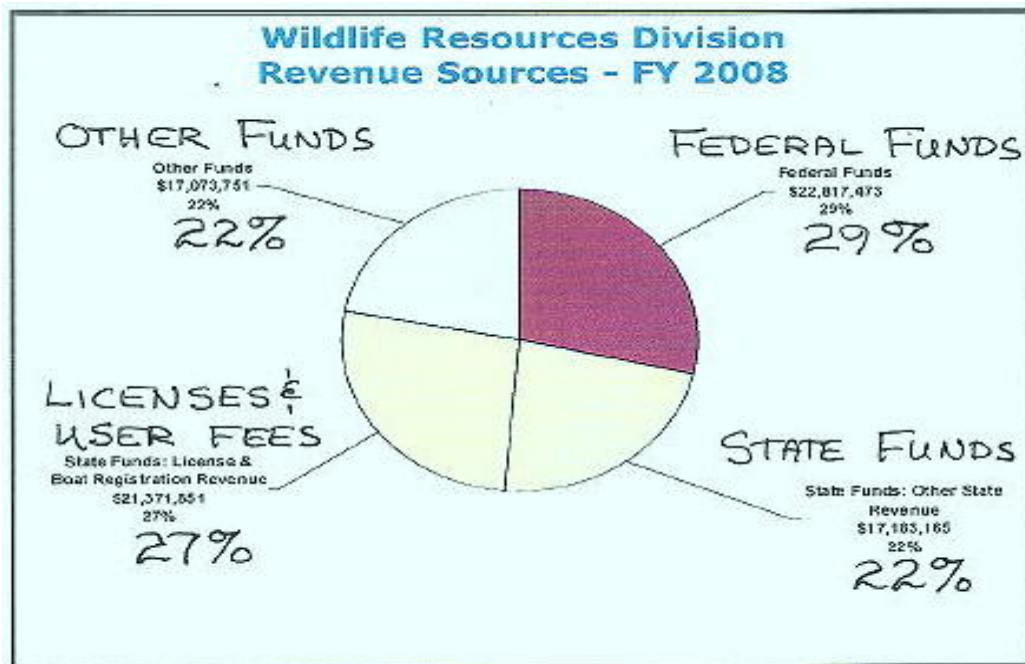
Approximately 2 million people participate in wildlife-watching in Georgia each year. This group spends about \$1.6 billion annually in the state, which has a total economic impact in the state of more than 1.9 billion.

Source: USFWS 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

FY 2008 Wildlife Resources Division Expenditures

\$78.4 Million





Current Situation: Addressing the seriousness of the present state financial budget situation, the Georgia 2009 DRAFT appropriations for the WRD (HB 1099, item 273.11) included reducing state funds (\$399,818) by closing the Burton Trout Hatchery. The appropriation bill will be acted on in the next general assembly session. The anglers of our state, business owners in counties with stocked trout streams, employees of those businesses and other stakeholders are all concerned about this possible closing of the Burton Hatchery.

As an informed and concerned constituent, please send a letter to your elected officials and share your views. Write to:

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

Rep-elect Stephen Allison
8th District GA House of Representatives
90 BLUE RIDGE STREET
BLAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA 30512

Senator-elect Jim B. Butterworth
50th GA Senatorial District
555 Monroe Street, Unit 20
Clarksville, GA 30523

To send an E-mail to all members of the GA DNR Board, use dnrboard@dnr.state.ga.us

Editor's Notes: For your consideration, below are some **Talking Points** in support of keeping the Burton Trout Hatchery in operation.

Trout Fishery Management:

1. Intelligent and appropriate stocking programs tend to remove pressure from wild trout waters.
2. Stocking increases the amount of fishable water.
3. Here at the southern reaches of the Appalachian Mountains where summer drought conditions can play havoc with marginal coldwater fisheries, restocking is a necessity.
4. For most Georgia trout anglers, stocked trout were their introduction to the joys of trout fishing and the wonders of mountain ecosystems.
5. Delayed Harvest trout stream management now provides the "training wheels" for the next generation of coldwater conservationists; and Delayed Harvest management is 100% dependent on trout stocking.
6. Closing the Burton Trout Hatchery will reduce the number of trout available for stocking by 31%

Economic considerations:

1. The employees of the Wildlife Resources Division have worked for decades to improve and enhance the coldwater fisheries in our region of the state. Their work has created a bustling economy that would not be in place otherwise.
2. A reduction of trout stocking by 31% would consequently result in fewer anglers spending their dollars to drive to the different areas of Northeast Georgia to fish the streams that benefit from the stockings.
3. Reduced trout stocking will result in a loss of revenue for businesses in the surrounding areas of these streams, including purchases of gasoline, lodging, food and beverages, ice, bait and tackle, etc.

4. The website for the Federal Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery (Suches, GA) outlines the economic impact of the fish grown there and stocked in surrounding streams. For every one dollar spent on operating this particular hatchery, almost \$43 of economic impact results. <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/ChattahoocheeForest/ChattahoocheeForest-EconomicImpact.pdf>
5. One could reasonably assume that the Burton Trout Hatchery has a comparable impact.
6. The State of Georgia general State Funds and License/User Fees pay for a portion of the costs to operate the Burton Trout Hatchery and the Federal Dingle-Johnson Act Funds pay for a share of the operations.
7. Dingle-Johnson Act — This act, established in 1950, placed a federal excise tax on fishing equipment. These moneys are earmarked for fisheries management, purchase, administration, and research.

Possible solution:

1. Closing the Burton Trout Hatchery will reduce the general "State Funds" for WRD by \$400,000 per year.
2. In Georgia, 100,000 trout anglers pay a \$5 per year user fee (trout stamp) in addition to their fishing licenses.
3. Trout anglers are more than willing to pay a user fee of \$10 per year (the resident trout stamp fee is \$10 in NC and is \$18 in TN) if anglers could be assured the additional \$500,000 per year in "User Fees" would guarantee the continuation of the excellent Georgia Wildlife Resources Division trout management program.

Dream Trip Raffle for a 2009 Fly Fishing Vacation for a Twosome!

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 Click [HERE](#)

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 that 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" (Continued)

The Nov 18th Meeting raffle had 10 buckets with 2 fly selections, a jar of local honey, a LED headlamp, auto accident kit, a Swiss army knife and much more. The raffle raised \$122 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.

Nov 25 (Tues) Board of Directors Meeting – 10 members participated. Items discussed included: Recap – November Campout; Rabun Rendezvous arrangements – The time is now to ask for Donations; Burton Hatchery situation; Dream Trip Raffle ticket sales; Rabun TU - Sponsors 2 Kids for 2009 Trout Camp; Spring Rod Raffle; 2009 Rabunite 101; Fly Rods for Youth Program; Jan & Chapter Meeting Programs; Dec 6 GA TU Council Meeting; Dec 9 Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner; Update: Publicity, Treasury Report; and Update - Tom Landreth Memorial Fund.



(Click on logo)

Sent: Monday, November 10, 2008

Subject: Brook Trout Streams needing chapter work in 2009

Following are the streams that the DNR and USFS staff have committed to working on next year through the USFWS grant which TU is committed to providing cash and in-kind (labor). These are the streams that both interns and chapters will need to concentrate on to successfully meet the terms of the grant. It is not necessary for a chapter to work on every stream because the interns will probably do the bulk of the work. However, we need a good turnout from chapters for the streams on which they choose to work.

Brook Trout Streams to receive structures during 2009

Hiawassee River Watershed: Gurley Creek, Joel Creek, Henson Creek, Big Net Branch, High Shoals Creek, Mossy Cove Branch, Gizzard Branch

Little Tennessee River Watershed: Thomas Creek and Ramey Creek

Chattooga River Watershed: Holcomb Creek, Ammons Creek, Walnut Fork Creek, and Bailey Branch

Tallulah River Watershed: North Fork Moccasin Creek, Howard Creek, Little Persimmon Creek, and Persimmon Creek

In addition, there is still structure work to be completed on Stover Creek in the Toccoa River Watershed to fulfill the Embrace-a-Stream grant requirements.

From: Alex Watson – Conservation Chairman of GA Back the Brookie

For more info, click [HERE](#)

Request to the Rabunites and Friends

With the budget crunch faced by the agencies (the US Forest Service and GA WRD), Trout Unlimited can step-up in 2009 and be the lead financial partner in protecting, preserving, and enhancing the coldwater resources in Northeast Georgia, including the "Back the Brookie" activities (see above). The Rabun Chapter's major fundraiser of the year, the Rabun Rendezvous, is just a few weeks away. As we near the end of the year and the Christmas season, now is a good time to ask friends and supporters for donations of goods and services for the bucket raffle and silent auction.

Need an idea what you can donate?

Art & crafts (fishing flies, wood working, sewing, knitting items) and goodies from the kitchens of the Rabunites (cakes, breads, baskets with canned veggies, jams, jellies and preserves) have always been popular with our guests.

*"May your thoughts be always peaceful, and your heart filled with gratitude to Him who made the country and the rivers:
and 'may the east wind never blow when you go a-fishing!'"*

From The Armchair Angler by Thaddeus Norris

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

Summary of F/Y 2008 Rabun TU Chapter Annual Financial & Volunteer Hours Report

(This annual report is required to maintain the Chapter's tax-exempt status)

Total Revenue (Cash inflow) - **\$30, 568** **Total Expenses** (Program services - \$19,079; Fundraising - \$8,358) - **\$27,437**
Total Assets (Cash, Receivables, CDs, Inventory) - **\$18,468** **Total Liabilities** - **\$0**

Estimated Volunteer Hours: **Conservation** (restoration, connection, protection, and advocacy projects) – **270 hours**
Youth Education – **880 hours** **General Education** – **215 hours** **Travel** – **425 hours**
Fundraising - **555 hours** **General Operations** (newsletter, website, membership, programs, reports) – **570 hours**
Total Estimated Volunteer Hours – **2915 hours**

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We wish **Eedee Adams** a speedy recovery after her recent surgery.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Big Rabunite "WELCOME" to a **new member** this month: **Dwight Millerman** (transfer), 1958 Drayton Way, Young Harris, GA 30582-2075

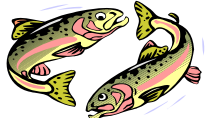
Thanks for re-upping: **Tom Matthews, John Starinchuck, Eugene Nolte, and Jim Blalock**

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

Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2009

President - Jimmy Whiten, PO BOX 881, TOCCOA GA 30577-1414
Vice President (w/Notices in newspaper)– **Larry Walker**
Treasurer (w/Newsletter & Meeting Raffles) - **Doug Adams**
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

Ph 706 886 6546	E-mail jimmywhiten@nctv.com
Ph 706 244 4345	E-mail amosndixie@alltel.net
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Ph 706 896 7445	E-mail mansfpd@alltel.net
Ph 706 782 7419	E-mail tlr1121@alltel.net
Ph 706 746 2104	E-mail bkjk1@alltel.net
Ph 706 782 6954	E-mail knc615@windstream.net
Ph 706 782 6954	E-mail knc615@windstream.net
Ph 404 680 6736	E-mail regentry@alltel.net
Ph 706 782 9913	E-mail raykearns@alltel.net
Ph 706 782 4978	E-mail scotts_creek58@yahoo.com



From the Fly Tying Desk of Jimmy Whiten

I always appreciate looking around in the different fly shops and always take advantage of every opportunity to go into one that I never have been in. I soon realized that they all have something in common or almost the same.

It was late afternoon on a cool lazy day; I spotted a fly shop that I never had been inside of (I like the small independent shops.) As I approached the front door I could already see the white board with the handwritten notes, (just like the ones you see at the Mom and Pop's Restaurant showing what the menu is for the day.) There were the names of three rivers where the fish are biting and a list of no less than ten must have to have flies. I always wonder how the fly shops come up with this information; do they just make this up? Do the guides bring this information back in? Do anglers come back by to give a report where the fish are and what fly to use? If so would this be like posting your W2, or posting a treasure map that one of your deceased relatives left you in their will. I could never bring myself to post a place that the fishing was good for me that day and just forget about the fly I use.

I walk in the front door and a small bell rang a gentle alarm letting the friendly clerk know someone had entered. Looking around, I could see a large number of rods, all sizes, and all prices, then there were equal reels, and even more gear throughout the shop, just knowing that I cannot buy a reel, rod, and/or other fishing gear in every shop I go in.

Flies, always need flies (lots of trees and brush out there you know) but why so many to choose from? I mean you are only fishing for about four or six different fish, so why not sort flies by the type fish you want to catch? Also, do like department stores do clothes; put out winter clothes in the fall, run sales on summer clothes, put out summer clothes in spring and run sales on winter clothes. Put out winter flies in the fall and run sales on the summer flies, put out the summer flies in the spring and run sales on the winter flies. At least you would be placing the flies into two groups.

I guess not understanding all of the above explains why I do lots of fishing and very little catching.

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

PO BOX 371

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