



# TIGHT LINES January 2009 Newsletter of the

## Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited

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

*"I knew my tippet was too big when the willow tree I'd hooked on my back cast came flying over my head."*  
Jimmy D Moore

### RABUN TU CHAPTER'S MEETING PLACE

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

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month 6:30 pm – Social & Yarn Spinning 7:00 pm – Program & Meeting**  
(You don't have to believe the yarns - - if you don't want to)

At every regular chapter meeting there will be a raffle for fishing or camping items to help pay the cost of mailing the newsletter to members without E-mail.

Bring an item to donate and a dollar or two for raffle tickets - you might win something.

*"When the hoarse roar of the creek, where it surges against the base of the crag it has washed for ages, strikes his ear, or he hears it brawling over the big stones, his step quickens, and his pulse beats louder – he is no true angler if it does not – and he is not content until he gets a glimpse of its bright rushing waters at the foot of the hill."* Thaddeus Norris

### "FORWARD CASTING"

Important Dates – See you there!

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

**Jan 24 (Sat) 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rabun Rendezvous;** The "NEW" enlarged Dillard House Conference Center; 5 PM Social, 6:30 PM Dinner. **Program presented by Noel Holcomb**, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. There will be a **special auction** for a framed 'pen & ink' **Tom Landreth original: "Brook Trout"** (never before offered). All the proceeds from sale of this striking original will be donated to the Georgia "[Back the Brookie](#)" program in Tom's memory.

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

**Feb 3 (Tues) 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chattooga Coalition Meeting** 9 AM in USFS office in Franklin, NC

**Feb 7 (Sat) Annual Planning Meeting** 8 AM Breakfast at Dillard House

**Feb 17 (Tues) Chapter Meeting** 6:30 PM, Community B&T, **Program: Mike Crane** "Implementing the new Chattooga North Fork Management Plan"

**Feb 24 (Tues) BOD Meeting** 6:30 PM, Community B&T.

**2009 Rabunite 101** (1/2-day fly-fishing workshop) – Sat. AM, April 4<sup>th</sup>  
**2009 GA Trout Camp;** June 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>  
Volunteer mentors needed for both

### FLY OF THE MONTH

by Terry Rivers



### BEADHEAD FLASHBACK PHEASANT TAIL

THIS IS A GREAT FLY TO TRAIL BEHIND A STIMULATOR OR DEAD DRIFT WITH SOME WEIGHT TO GET IT DOWN. THIS FLY MADE MY DAY IN NOVEMBER 2008 ON THE D.H.

**HOOK:** 14/16 DRYFLY OR SCUD HOOK

**HEAD:** COPPER OR BRASS BEAD

**TAIL:** PHEASANT TAIL 3 OR 4 FIBERS

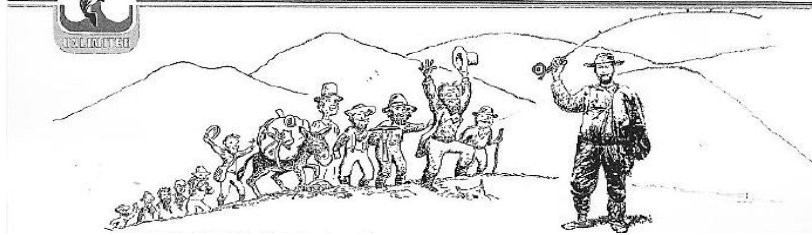
**BODY:** PHEASANT TAIL FIBERS PALMERD AND BOUND DOWN WITH COPPER WIRE

**THORAX:** SHOWN IS PHEASANT TAIL FIBERS. YOU CAN SUBSTITUTE WITH PEACOCK HERL

**WINGCASE:** MYLAR OR GOLD TINSEL

*"The uncertainty that most of us find in trout fishing is one of its most obvious charms. It draws us back to running water every April that the gods allot us and keeps us waving old age away with a rod and a looping line. Angling is like one of those everlasting puzzles that we solve again and again, each time we solve them forgetting the solutions or finding that they will not work a second time. To send those feathers fluttering down the air, to see them settle gently as the eyelashes of a child that is falling asleep, to watch them come slowly back, surveyed from below by rapacious eyes, and all the while to be alert in body and mind and quiet at heart—this, to a good many men whose intelligence none of us would care to gainsay, is one of the more absorbing occupations that life affords."*

From *Thy Rod and Thy Creel* by Odell Shepard



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

**Please Join Us for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Rabun Rendezvous**

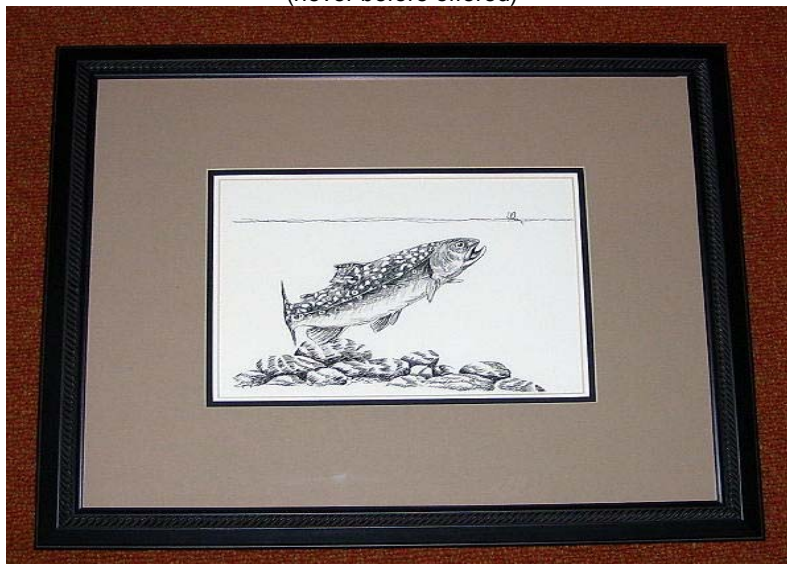
*"The Rendezvous was unlike anything before or since, a gathering of uninhibited men down from the mountains. The event attracted perhaps a hundred mountain men, their indian wives, and assorted visiting tribesmen. Amusements included gambling, drinking, storytelling – continuing day and night." Quote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

**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.  
5 PM Social, 6:30 PM Dinner

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

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



All the proceeds from sale of this striking original will be donated to the Georgia "[Back the Brookie](#)" program in Tom's memory.

For more details about the Rendezvous , click [HERE](#) or E-mail [edadams1@alltel.net](mailto:edadams1@alltel.net) ;

For lodging call toll Free 1-800-541-0671 Mention you are coming to the **Trout Unlimited Rendezvous** for the best rates.

**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 coming soon As we near the end of the year, 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.

## 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: **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](mailto:edadams1@alltel.net)

### 2008 Progress Report Summary

- The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Chattooga Conservancy (CC) partnership transitioned into the 2008 calendar year with a seamless schedule of collecting water samples once a week at 5-7 sites in the Stekoa Creek watershed. A trained CC representative collected the water samples every Tuesday morning. Through a chain of custody procedure, the samples were transported to a certified lab by a rotation of 19 Rabun TU members who volunteered their time (3 travel hours each week) and vehicle expenses (132 miles round trip). The samples must reach the lab within 6 hours of collection, where they are analyzed to obtain fecal coliform and turbidity levels. TU paid all the lab fees, approximately \$5,000 for the past 12 months. The National TU Embrace-A-Stream grant covered the first \$3000 and the balance was paid by donations from the GA Council of TU, 4 TU Chapters and the Atlanta Fly Fishing School.
- The TU project manager compiled the lab results into an ongoing spreadsheet for public education purposes and online accessibility. In addition, the CC regularly forwarded the lab results to the Mountain District Office (enforcement branch) of the Georgia EPD to prompt the agency's oversight action.
- The CC followed up on numerous occasions with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning the "action steps" agreed upon at a November 2007 meeting that brought together local, state, and federal agencies to discuss strategies for improving Stekoa Creek's water quality.
- In May 2008, the EPA was active in convening another meeting to address cleaning up Stekoa Creek, TU and CC members served on the steering committee for planning this meeting's agenda. Six (6) TU representatives were among the over 50 "stakeholders" ranging from local government staff, state and federal agencies, and interested citizens attending the meeting. Later in the year, this group adopted the name "Stekoa Creek Task Force."
- One immediate outcome of this May '08 meeting was the formation of 4 working groups to address (1) reducing the fecal coliform pollution, (2) finding funding sources, (3) compliance and enforcement of existing laws and regulations to protect water quality, and (4) establishing a vision for the Stekoa Creek corridor. Each of the 4 groups includes at least one TU member. The first group is called the "Fix Sewer Group" (FSG) and is chaired by the CC representative and includes two TU members. The FSG subsequently produced an action plan focusing on the first, essential steps for improving Stekoa Creek's water quality.
- While in the field collecting water samples and based on the review of the lab reports, the CC representative were on the scene to document major sewage spills in March 2008, in June 2008, and in August 2008. All spills were into Stekoa Creek and Scott Creek, a primary tributary to Stekoa Creek. The CC reported all of these sewage spills to the GA EPD, in addition to the ongoing record of weekly water sampling results.
- Meanwhile, as the Stekoa Creek Task Force continued to meet, the FSG's agenda moved into the realm of the Clayton City Council. In July 2008, the FSG requested that The City of Clayton issue a Request For Proposals (RFP) that would result in developing short and long term plans for fixing Clayton's failing sewage collection system infrastructure, which has been widely acknowledged as the primary source of the fecal coliform pollution in Stekoa Creek. The city council rejected this request at their July meeting; however, after further work by the FSG, the Clayton City Council approved issuing the RFP at their August '08 meeting. Council also "gave the nod" to the FSG to compose a draft RFP.
- After appropriate communications with members of the Stekoa Creek Task Force, as well as City of Clayton Council and staff, and an engineering group affiliated with North Carolina State University, the FSG's draft RFP was presented to the Clayton City Council at their November 2008 meeting. Council approved the RFP.
- To assist the objective of prompting meaningful enforcement of water quality standards by the GA EPD, the CC recently investigated records at Clayton City Hall, and has compiled a list of all "major" sewage spills reported by Clayton during 2007 and 2008 (to date).

**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 60% of the lab fees. Matching donations are needed for the other 40%. For info on where you or your organization can send a donation to help pay lab fees E-mail [edadams1@alltel.net](mailto:edadams1@alltel.net) . All donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501(c) 3 non-profit) are tax deductible.

**'Website-of-the-Month': 2008 National TU's Best Newsletter Award winner, click:**

<http://www.valleyforgetu.org/banknotes/current.html>

### JANUARY HATCHES

The Bugs	Time of Month	Time of Day	Suggested Flies
None at all	All Month	All Day	Dredging Nymphs: 12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, PT
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

## 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

For rules, complete details, picture & recipe for the "Hazel Creek", Click [http://www.ngatu692.com/Fly\\_Tying\\_Contest.html](http://www.ngatu692.com/Fly_Tying_Contest.html)

## Letters To the Rabunites

**Sent:** US Postal, November 17, 2008

**To:** Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

To thank you for kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated. So many of our friends are involved in this terrific organization. We want you to know how much we appreciate your thoughts and prayers at this time. Thanks for your monetary contribution to Lucy's church. Words cannot express how much you all mean to us.

**From:** Bill & Jean Kelly & the rest of Lucy's family – Dillard, GA

**Editor's notes:** *Lucy Kimbell was Jean's mother. Rabun TU's BOD authorized the memorial gift.*

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 26, 2008

**Subject:** RE: TIGHT LINES December 2008 Newsletter

Thanks for the copy of tight lines. The economic data compiled on fishing and fisheries was very enlightening.

**From:** Mike Bamford – Cashiers, NC

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 26, 2008

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

I noticed your article on the Executive order signed by Bush on Sept. 26 that revises one signed by Clinton in 1995. Do you suppose that revision would have any affect on opening up the upper part of Smith Creek (which USFS manages) to fishing instead of feeding big broilers that the tourists going up to Anna Ruby Falls can't even see?

**From:** Alex Watson – Atlanta, GA

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 26, 2008

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

I am retiring on December 3rd. Can you change my e-mail address to [xxx@windstream.net](mailto:xxx@windstream.net) so I can continue to receive it? Maybe I can become more active with more time with TU.

**From:** Larry M. Lockett - Engineering and Recreation Staff Officer, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

**Editor's notes:** *Congratulations. Retirement is GOOD!*

**Sent:** Thursday, November 27, 2008

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

I will read it later on. I get 4 newsletters on-line (one salt & 3 trout). If you are interested just let me know. I will be writing a story about my (recent) trip (to winter trout fish in GA) and my meeting so many "Red Necks" and how well everyone treated me, once again.

**From:** John (the Yankee) Springer - Wallingford, CT

**Editor's notes:** *See article submitted by John elsewhere in this issue of TIGHT LINES (page 7).*

**Sent:** Thursday, November 27, 2008

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

I was just about to ask you about Long Bottom and Presto---in comes the newsletter. Thanks.

I had to read through it quickly as I always enjoy reading Jimmy Whiten's anecdotes. Now there's another Mark Twain in the making.

I'm meeting three guys tomorrow to wade on the flats at Ft. DeSoto. Spotted Weakfish (trout) are showing up sporadically. We need another cold front or two to drive the Red Drum (Redfish) up on the flats. When they come, I'll be ready. Take care, I think of you and my beloved mountains often.....

**From:** Russ Tyre – St Petersburg Beach, FL

**Sent:** Friday, November 28, 2008

**Subject:** RE: TIGHT LINES December 2008 Newsletter

Thanks so much for this edition of Tight Lines! It's a wonderful information source even for those of us so deprived as to be non-anglers. The zoning of streams mentioned in one of your reports must be done by the state – right? Thanks for ALL you do!

**From:** Katheryn Granberg – Commissioner-elect for Rabun County, GA

**Editor's notes:** *Thank you for your kind comments. The Forest Service zones the recreation on public lands and waters by user groups (4-wheelers, horseback riding, mountain biking, whitewater boating, foot travel only, camping, etc) to avoid user conflicts, to protect the experiences and/or to protect resources. The state zones public trout streams for anglers by fishing methods and times (bait, artificial only, catch & release, daylight hours, seasonal, year around, etc) to provide various experiences and/or to protect resources.*

**Sent:** Friday, November 28, 2008

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

Thank you for the newsletter.... I think the guy with the idea of naming flies for showgirls is on to something.

**From:** Stella Ivie – Clayton, GA

**Sent:** Saturday, November 29, 2008

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

Enjoyed reading the "Tight Lines" and it appears that you are making some progress (with Stekoa Creek) - keep me informed.

**From:** Jane Sanders - N. Palm Beach, FL

**Editor's notes:** *Yes we are and we will.*

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

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

The draft EA public comment period closed on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Almost 3000 public comments on the draft EA were received and 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 January 2009.

### What's New Elsewhere?

The following excerpt is from a Clayton Tribune article: <http://www.theclaytontribune.com/>

#### **Burton hatchery taken off budget cut list** By Jessi Stone, Staff Writer (12/10/2008)

The Lake Burton Fish Hatchery has been taken off the list of proposed cutbacks by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. DNR Commissioner Noel Holcomb recently presented a new list of proposed budget cuts to Gov. Sonny Perdue that did not include the closing of the hatchery. John Biagi, DNR fisheries chief, said the change in budget priorities might be attributed to the high level of feedback state officials received from anglers. Incoming state Rep. Stephen Allison said people loved coming to Rabun County for sites like the fish hatchery. He added that nothing would be certain until the fourth day of the session in January. He advised constituents to be on alert during the week of Jan. 12 for word on the budget cuts for each department. The Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited played a major role in keeping the hatchery open by encouraging its members to voice their concern to Holcomb and Perdue. Closing the hatchery would save the Wildlife Resources Division

\$400,000 each year. TU came up with a proposal to raise \$500,000 by increasing the cost of the annual trout stamp from \$5 to \$10. To read more, click [HERE](#)

**E-mail Sent:** Sunday, November 30, 2008

**Subject:** Hatchery up-date

As some of you may have heard, the Hatchery has been taken off the "hit" list by DNR. HOWEVER..it ain't over yet and we must keep the pressure on. In January the legislature will have a final say AND the budget cuts are designed to run through 2010.

We must continue to contact the Governor, our representatives and DNR and let them know our concerns. NOW is a very good time to contact your reps, especially newly elected ones, and get your voice heard before the next session begins in January.

**From:** Charlie Breithaupt – Clayton, GA

**Editor's notes:** *Charlie is Chairman of the GA TU Council*

The following excerpt is from the Dalton (GA) Daily Citizen <http://www.daltondailycitizen.com/homepage>

#### **Cougar killed in Troup County** FORT VALLEY, GA (11/18/2008)

Hunters around West Point Lake might be led to believe that Georgia has a new predator roaming the woods - the cougar. A Sunday kill of a male cougar on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land at West Point Lake, south of Highway 109, seemed to verify that thought. However, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division, this simply is a one-time experience. "Though cougar and panther sightings persist in Georgia, there are no known native populations of these animals roaming the woods," advises Wildlife Resources Division Region Supervisor Kevin Kramer. "There is no reason to believe there are any more cougars out there. This likely is a

unique experience and while exciting, is not something for which we should be concerned." The cougar, taken near the Abbottsford community west of LaGrange, was a male, 88 inches in length measured from the nose to the tip of the tail and weighed approximately 140 pounds. The hunter who took the animal was legally hunting deer from his tree stand at the time the cougar approached. Initial external examination by Wildlife Resources Division biologists found no tattoos, tags or collars, and the cougar had not been declawed. To read more, click [HERE](#)

**Editor's notes:** *By golly, this one I believe.*

The following is reprinted from the AJC, click [HERE](#)

#### **GA Gov. Perdue picks new Department of Natural Resources Commissioner**

By Stacy Shelton, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (11/5/2008)

Gov. Sonny Perdue made clear his choice for the next head of the state agency that regulates environmental protection laws, operates state parks and wildlife management areas, and oversees historic preservation efforts. Perdue's choice for the next commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources is Chris Clark, executive director of the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority. The governor appointed Clark in 2007 to that position, overseeing the state's energy strategy and providing low-interest loans to local governments for water and sewer projects. Earlier this year, the state Legislature also gave GEFA the job of building and expanding the state's network of water

supply reservoirs, although the \$40 million to jump-start the effort fell victim to budget cuts. Clark, a native of Fitzgerald in south Georgia, was the deputy commissioner of global commerce at the Georgia Department of Economic Development prior to joining GEFA, and is credited with recruiting a new Kia Motors manufacturing plant to West Point, GA. If approved by the Board of Natural Resources, which has 18 members appointed by the governor, Clark will replace Noel Holcomb when the longtime DNR veteran retires next April. It would be the first time in DNR's 36-year history that the commissioner was not promoted from within the organization.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS: SC DNR, GA WRD, USFS, TU & AFFC working together for backcountry trout fishery management**

The USFS firefighting helicopter with ground support from GA and SC Forest Service personnel delivered trout to the backcountry of Chattooga's North Fork again this fall. The drought conditions and hot temperatures of this past August were devastating to trout populations in many streams in the region, including the lower section of the Chattooga North Fork. The trout that were stocked ranged in size from 5-inch sub-adults (for put and grow management) to adults. The trout were

provided by SC DNR and GA WRD and paid for by fishing license and trout stamp fees. For over 20 years, TU in Georgia has had a "challenge cost share agreement" with the USFS. Anglers and the USFS split the helicopter costs 50-50. Currently Rabun TU's Tom Landreth Memorial Fund, GA TU Council, and the Atlanta Fly Fishing Club contribute \$1500/year to deliver GA WRD's trout to the lower backcountry of the Wild & Scenic Chattooga's North Fork and West Fork.

Georgia's new online recreational license system went live Wed., Nov. 12 on the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division Web site - [www.georgiawildlife.com](http://www.georgiawildlife.com) Users looking to purchase, renew or replace fishing and hunting licenses should select "Recreational Licenses" under the "Permits and Services" box on the division's Web site to log into the new system. "Under the new system, users will have the added convenience of purchasing their hunting and fishing licenses by telephone," said Capt. Mike England of the division's License and Boat Registration Unit. "We are happy to be working with the new vendor, Active Networks (the resulting merge of Central Bank, InfoSpherix and Automated License Systems) recognized as a data and financial experts, who also serve 25 other states in the same capacity." The remainder of the changes to the recreational license system will occur as

originally scheduled in January 2009. The early launch of the new online license system was designed to allow ample time to resolve any resulting issues before the official January launch affecting retail agents statewide. In January, all participating retail agents will begin selling licenses under the new system, and this will complete the transition of the division's license and boat registration system. Currently, approximately 400 retail agents have signed up to participate in the new system in January. Those agents that are interested and have yet to sign up, should call 1-800-825-9165 to ensure inclusion in the final transition process. With the new online recreational license system, customers are able to print out licenses immediately with their personal printers. To read more, click [HERE](#) To purchase an online Fishing License, click [HERE](#)

# # #

### National Forest visitors down, no one knows why

An excerpt from an article by Jeff Barnard , AP Writer, GRANTS PASS, Ore. (11/29/2008)

In the years after World War II, Americans packed up their young families and Army surplus camping gear and headed into the national forests to hunt, fish, and hike. Going to the woods was part of what it meant to be an American. Today, however, visits to the national forests are off 13 percent. Top officials at the U.S. Forest Service blame it on circumstances outside their control — rising gas prices, the popularity of video games and the Internet, and an increasingly urban and aging population less inclined to camp out. Critics focus on fees charged for hiking trails and visitor centers, a proliferation of noisy off-road vehicles

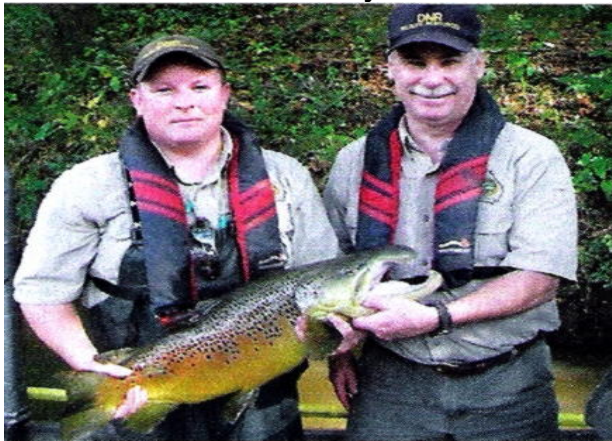
and the declining proportion of the Forest Service budget dedicated to recreation. James Johnston, a policy analyst with Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics in Eugene, spent the last year camping out in 67 national forests and talking to 400 people. He concluded that while fewer people may be using the woods, fewer trails and campgrounds are open and there are more people riding noisy off-road vehicles. "They think that it's harder to find solitude," he said of the people he talked to. To read more, click [HERE](#)

# # #

The following article excerpt is from the Upper Chattahoochee TU Chapter Nov 2008 newsletter.

[http://www.ucctu.org/newsletters/november\\_2008.pdf](http://www.ucctu.org/newsletters/november_2008.pdf)

### The blue ribbon trout fishery in Atlanta on the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.



This is a 15lb 30inch brown trout caught and released by GA DNR biologist Chris Martin (right) and his assistant Mark Rigglesford during an electrofishing survey on the Upper Chattahoochee below Buford dam near the Old Jones Bridge recreation area. The most impressive discovery is that all Chris's sampling sites at Buford dam, Settles Bridge, Abbotts Bridge and Jones Bridge revealed an impressive 85% brown trout population. This is amazing since DNR has not stocked browns on this upper 35-mile reach since 2004!



## INTRODUCING WAYSOUTH

The Stop I-3 Coalition is a project of [WaysSouth](#). Welcome to a familiar friend with a new look. WaysSouth is now the name of the organization that has been working hard on transportation issues that you care about, including the proposed Interstate 3, Corridor K, and advocating for responsible transportation throughout Appalachia. Our primary goals remain stopping I-3 and promoting environmentally-sound solutions for Corridor K. WaysSouth fills a niche that has long been neglected, one that is critically important to the preservation of the environment, heritage, and sense of place in the southern Appalachians. To read more, click <http://www.stopi3.org/>

### Tom Landreth Memorial Fund Update

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

*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.*

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the following December donor to the Tom Landreth Memorial Fund:

**Bob Beck - Duluth, GA**

It is not too late to make a donation. Write your donation check payable to: Rabun TU For: Tom's Memorial Fund

Mail to: Rabun TU, PO Box 65, Rabun Gap, GA 30568 All donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501(c) 3 non-profit) are tax deductible

**Editor's notes:** The following article was submitted to TIGHT LINES by the author, John Springer. John is a member of the Hammonasset TU Chapter in Connecticut <http://www.hammonassettu.com/>

## Southern Hospitality

By John Springer (11/20/2003)

Again this year my dad and I paid a visit to his old friend Joe who lives in Pumpkin Town South Carolina. Just like anyplace you go to fish each time you go you learn more about it, this trip was no exception. Through the Trout Unlimited home page (TU.ORG) you can find all the TU chapters in America. Every chapter is there; some have no contacts, some do. They also have chapter news. This is a great way to find out information sometimes on an area you are going to fish. One of the chapters, Saluda River even said to contact us for fishing information, so I did. Sometimes with internet information you will find that it's not kept up to date, but that was not the case this time on the third ring Larry Craft picked up the phone. After introducing myself to him I asked if he had a few minutes to talk about fishing he said he did and asked where I was from I told him and he spoke to me for about fifteen minutes about his chapters last fishing outing and where I would do real well. We talked about three rivers to fish but his main emphasis was on the Nantahala River in North Carolina. This river has what they call Delayed Harvest, this meant it was stocked with fish in October and the fish could not be harvested until June. This river is located in Nantahala National Forest near Andrews N.C. Nantahala, like every National Forest or Park I have been in is a beautiful place. An added bonus was the river cascaded for miles through a very steep gorge. Accesses is easy as a road was next to the river at all times but not much traffic and with all the water tumbling over rocks you could not hear them anyway. In two days of fishing I saw only four other anglers and a photographer. Had I known I was going to have my picture taken I would have worn a red shirt like they do in the fly-fishing magazines. Above the area I was fishing is a section of river where you can keep fish. There I found several friendly anglers who told me because of the bad weather patterns they were using worms or in the case of the spin fishermen, a worm trailer. He also shared with me that the reservoir that fed the river had

great Striper Bass fishing if I had a boat. Even though the weather was cloudy with a bit of light rain during my time fishing, no Blue Wing Olives came off and I saw only a few fish come up for small midges. Because of the fast moving water with very few pools, nymphing was the way to go. Larry had told me that and he also gave me a list of nymphs to have. Even though they were hatchery fish they were not easy to fool and in no way did they have that "Southern Hospitality" toward my flies. Larry had said go small and I did. The water is clear and you could see the fish move out of the way for most of my "fast water" flies. As always I do better in fast water and Black Stone flies and a San Juan worm worked best for me. All the fish looked wild. I think that was because of a private hatchery I visited had dirt pools for raising the fish. At the end of the second day I hooked a fish I got to see for about three seconds and it was one of bigger fish Larry had mentioned. He liked my worm so much he kept it and went to the bottom. With that I reeled in and called it a day. Joe and my dad had supper waiting for me.

During the night the tail end of a storm that started in Texas came through and it rained for ten hours. When you drive around the areas I was in, you notice many red brick homes. The reason is so much clay in the soil. My third day was going to be spent on the (Chattooga) River because the upper reaches of this river boarder both N.C. and S.C. you can use either license. My third day turned into a sightseeing day checking out places to go on my next trip and spending sometime driving the Blue Ridge Highway. Much of my time was spent at about five thousand feet elevation, the scenery was breath taking. My best friend Terp who passed away some years ago once told me when I was much younger that he had already caught all the fish and he did not have to catch them all again. He took time to meet people and take a look around. Each year I learn more about what he meant. Many thanks to both Larry and Joe for showing me true southern hospitality.

---

## 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](http://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](mailto:jimmywhiten@nctv.com)

***"With many persons fishing is a mere recreation, a pleasant way of killing time. To the true angler, however the sensation it produces is a deep unspoken joy, born of a longing for that which is quiet and peaceful . . . No wonder that, the fly fisher loves to take a day all by himself; for his very loneliness begets a comfortable feeling of independence and leisure, and a quiet assurance of resources within himself to meet all difficulties that may arise . . . "***

From American Angler's Book by Thaddeus Norris, (1864)

## "BACKCASTING"

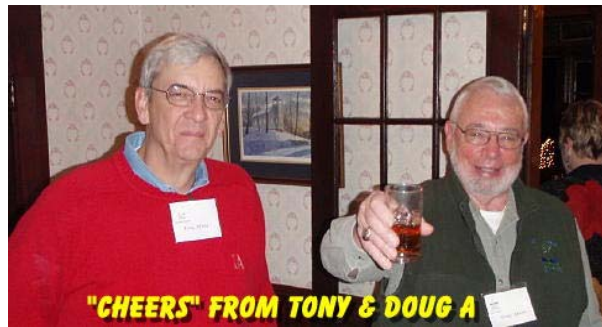
**Dec 2 (Tues) Presentation to the Tallulah Watershed Protection Association** about the possible closing of the Burton Trout Hatchery – 3 Rabun TU members participated.

**Dec 6 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting** – 7 Rabun TU members participated. The agenda included the following items: Call to Order; Introductions, Roll Call, Introduction of Special Guests, and Opening Remarks; Minutes of Previous Meeting; Treasurer's Report; Chattahoochee River Rescue; Support Alternative F for the Chattahoochee River NPS Management Plan; GA TU Calendar of Activities for 2009; The Burton Trout Hatchery; Saving Private Brooks; 2009 GA Trout Camp; BTB; Chattooga North Fork River Management Plan; CEI and rechartering; Report on Outdoor Adventure Day; Earth Share of GA; Fly Fishing for Vets; Sportsman Day at Capitol; AFF Show; Casting for Recovery in GA; Georgia Environmental Action Network (GEAN); GA Water Quality meeting; GON meeting; and the Rabun Rendezvous.

**Dec 9 (Tues) Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner** was enjoyed by 34 Rabunites.



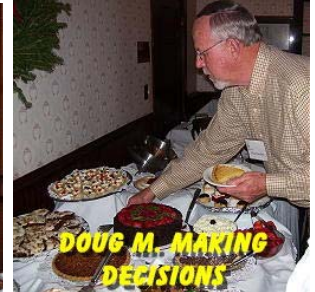
**PREZ JIMMY & KATHY**



**"CHEERS" FROM TONY & DOUG A**



**CAROLYN & DOT  
PLANNING 2009 TRIPS?**



**DOUG M. MAKING  
DECISIONS**

 *Merry Christmas and A Happy new season!*

Thanks to **John Amrine** and to **Russ Burken**, a Rabun TU member, for your cash donations to the Rabun TU Chapter.  
 Thanks to the **Clayton Wal\*Mart** for their \$1,000 donation to National TU through Rabun TU.  
 All donations to Rabun TU and National TU (Federal Tax Exempt 501(c)3 non-profits) are tax deductible.



USFS – GA: [\(click on logo\)](#)  
 Chattooga River Ranger District

Brook trout habitat enhancements underway [Decision Memo](#); [Scoping letter](#); [Map Addie Ammons Bailey Emory Holcomb](#); [Map Charles creek](#); [Map Chattahoochee river](#); [Map Keener crk](#); [Map Persimmon crk](#); [Map Popcorn creek](#); [Map South Fork Moc](#); [Map Smith branch](#); [Map Tate branch](#); [Map Thomas creek](#); [Map Walnut fork](#); [Map Brook trout habitat North Fork Moccasin Creek](#); [Map Flat Branch trout habitat](#);

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



## FISHING REPORT

Rabunite **Pat Hopton** took these underwater photos of wild trout that he had just caught and released. Where? I.D.B.I.S. Pat uses a pocket size shockproof (5'), waterproof (10') and freeze-proof Olympus Stylus 790 SW camera.



### Fly Line Design vs. Rod Size

Starting in 1961 fly line weights were established by the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association (AFTMA) and all fly line weights are based on the weight of the first 30 feet of the composite fly line. Moreover, 90% of all fly lines purchased are weight forward lines. A weight forward fly line is designed with a front taper, a belly, a rear taper and finally the running line. The front taper, belly and rear taper make up what is called the head of the fly line and technology in the manufacturing of these lines provides many different head lengths based on the type of casting and fishing that is desired. Selecting just a 5-weight line, the head lengths vary between 30 and 68 feet for the most popular Scientific Anglers (SA) lines. So now ...how does that affect your casting?

When you cast a weight forward line that has a head greater than 30 feet; for every 5 to 6 feet that you extend the head beyond the tip of the fly rod you load your rod one line size up. As an example, if you had one of SA fly lines with a head that was 50 feet long or longer and you aerialized 45 feet of line to make a cast to perhaps 50 to 55 feet, you have loaded your 5 weight rod with the equivalent of an 8 weight line. However, there is another consideration: Table 1 shows the lines by manufacturer and line types that are 1.5 times heavier than the AFTMA standard. So recalling that for every 5 feet beyond 30 feet that your fly line is aerialized, you are casting one additional line weight. For line that is made with 1.5 x line weight specifications, you would be casting 150% of the rated line weight. Therefore the example here is: if you aerialized 40 feet of a GPX 6 wt. line, you would be casting the equivalent of a 9.5 weight line on your 6 wt. fly rod.

TABLE 1

Manufacturer	SA/3M	RIO	Orvis	Cortland	Royal Wulff
Line types	GPX	RIO Grand	Wonderline- Power taper	Precision Trout**	Bass 7 wt. and up
>----->	Headstart	Nymph		3 to 7.5 wt.	
>----->	Air-Cel	Clouser*			
>----->	Nymph				

\* Minimum size is 4 wt.    \*\* Made and marked in half sizes

These lines are made to load your rod faster which they will do, however you should be aware of the potential problems that might be created by aerializing 30 or more feet of these lines with some fly-rods. This accounts for why many rods do not cast that well with some lines. Furthermore, this is a good reason to know what you are buying when it comes to fly rods and fly-lines.

One final consideration, if you aerialized enough line to place the head of any fly line outside the tip top of the fly rod (*typical of short heads like XPS or Trout and others*) then casting would become very difficult due to the small mass of the running line attempting to control the large mass of the head. (Like trying to crack a bullwhip while holding a string attached to the butt end of the whip) Just another reason why your casting might also be suffering a bit!

Submitted to TIGHT LINES by: **M. A. (Mack) Martin Jr.** - Manager & FFF Certified Master Fly Casting Instructor  
**Atlanta Fly Fishing School** <http://www.atlantaflyfishingschool.com/>

***“Signals of impending change come in many ways, some subtle, others without warning. Little children in fresh school clothes, shorter days and birds flying like they got to be somewhere: They all tell you that autumn is nearby. The cooler nights of early autumn chase summer away – another summer come and gone and like too many before, I ask myself why I didn’t fish more than I did. It’s become the bromide of the season, and the answer is always the same, the workingman’s lament.”***

Article titled “Indian Summer” by Craig Springer, in Flyfisher, Autumn 2000

**Editor’s notes:** The below article was published over 65 years ago in OUTDOORS GEORGIA magazine.

# RANGER ARTHUR WOODY...

## *Lives to See Game and Fish Dreams Come True in Georgia Mountains*

By CHARLES N. ELLIOTT  
Director, Game and Fish Commission

**B**ELOW and beyond where we stood, the Chattahoochee National Forest was spread out like an endless relief map. Wrinkled hills, blazoned with vivid autumn colors, dropped sheer from our feet and rolled away, wave on top of wave, into the distance. The sun was up, but its yellow rays that spanned the far-flung cosmos were not warm. The wall of icy wind, pouring over and around the mountain peak, had pinched two crimson splotches on Ranger Woody's cheeks. The skin around my eyes and lips was numb.

"Tomorrer," the ranger said, "is the day I've waited fifty years fer."

I glanced sidewise at this grizzled old veteran of the mountains. He was graying around the muzzle, but his steel-blue eyes were as quick and keen as the eyes of a hunting eagle. His wide mouth was friendly and humorous and the tight little lines around it had been etched there in this high country where day by day existence was not a matter of mere routine.

### *Started Re-stocking*

"That's right," he said. "In 1928 I bought six deer with cash out of my pocket and planted them down there on Rock Creek watershed. A year or two later the Forest Service bosses decided this was good deer range all through this country and brought down about fifty deer from another forest and stocked the four refuges between here and the South Carolina line. Today, in fifteen years, our herd in north Georgia has around two thousand animals in it."

"What's this about fifty years?" I asked.

The ranger jabbed a piece of yellow straw at his teeth.

"When I was a kid," he said, "my pa killed the last deer out of these mountains. I thought about that for a lot of years and made up my mind that some day I would put back what

he and the mountain men of his time took away. Last couple of years the Forest Service has held organized hunts on the refuges. Got some deer, too. But tomorrer we are opening all north Georgia to deer hunters. Tomorrer somebody will bag the first buck that's been killed wild in these mountains in half a century."

I nodded. That was like Ranger Arthur Woody. He was one of those rare individuals who casually and without ceremony had pledged him-



RANGER ARTHUR WOODY

self to a life of helping his neighbors. In his quiet, matter-of-fact way, this sixty-year-old mountaineer had brought in new ideas and prosperity to his people. And without knowing it, or even caring, he had become an institution in his cracker state.

### *Progress in the Hills*

Among his own people, Ranger Woody is the Scattergood of the mountains. He built a new school where the children of his neighbors could go and get "book larning." He

built a church. He organized Easter sunrise services which each year are broadcast at the crack of dawn from Woody Gap, above his home.

Senators, Governors, statesmen from all corners of the land are known to him by the "first handles of their names". Educators seek him out in the mountain fastness to find inspiration in his homespun philosophy.

But those things are not as important to him as his job of protecting the forests from fire, or of bringing back deer and bear and wild turkeys to the woods, and trout to the swift mountain streams of his beloved Blue Ridge.

### *Ever Alert*

He has been the main factor in the establishment of the new deer herd. Hour after hour, he has patrolled the mountain trails, watching for poachers. Hour after hour he has waited for running dogs on the trail of a doe or a fawn. In his pickup truck, he has crunched over the gravel roads, inside and outside the refuge boundaries, watching in the dirt and sand and along the roadside for signs that tell him of some intruder who has come illegally to kill his game or catch his fish.

Last year he was rewarded. He has lived to see the season on deer throughout the Blue Ridge Mountains of northern Georgia.

"Didn't like it much, though," he said. "Deer ain't thick enough yet. If they'll stop all this foolishness and give them a chance to come back, they'll soon be so plentiful that you won't have to strain the lard out of your backbone to get a buck."

Principally because of his efforts, many sportsmen are looking to some day in the near future when the deer will be as plentiful as they were on that morning, long ago, when the first Woody family rolled over the rugged pass at what is now Woody Gap, and picked out a beauty spot along one of the streams in the valley to build a home in the mountain wilderness.

**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](mailto:knc615@windstream.net) (706) 782-6954

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

We offer our sincere condolences to the family of **Jean Kelly**, wife of Bill Kelly (both are charter members of the Rabun Chapter), who passed away on December 10<sup>th</sup> after a long battle with cancer. Jean will be remembered as a lady with a permanent smile. She was a dedicated and appreciated caregiver to several members of her immediate and extended families as well as the community at large. She touched many lives and everyone will remember her with love. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, January 3, 2009 at 11:00 AM at the Head of Tennessee Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Roy Kelly Fund, Head of Tennessee Baptist Church, Dillard, GA 30537.

This fund is used to give financial assistance to those dealing with catastrophic medical issues.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

A Big Rabunite "WELCOME" to a **new member** this month: **Christopher Sawers**, 204 Sky High Drive # 471, Dillard, GA 30537

Thanks for re-upping: **Hugh Thompson, John Ramsey, Bob Biebel, David E. Nichols and Jim Kidd.**

It is time to renew your membership: **Steve Denman, Danny Cox, Rick Hires, Tracy McCoy, Pom Sinnock, Patsy Gentry, Logan Justice, Tyler Kearns, and Ronald McKenney.**

## **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**

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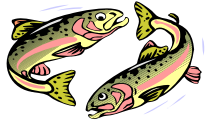
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### From the Fly Tying Desk of Jimmy Whiten

I was very sadden Wednesday (December 10,2008) to hear of the death of one of my friends, Jean Kelly (Bill Kelly's wife.) She was a very special person, always supporting Bill and all of his fishing trips and could always find something good to say about anyone, (even me).

Well it is that time of year; time to forget about the word diet. Go ahead and give yourself permission to eat whatever you want, we will worry about those extra pounds next year, (maybe we can even justify leaving them on, just like last year). The Christmas Holidays - always the shopping - so much fun (well for some). Time to buy that gift for the person that already has everything. I hope each of you have been saving those catalogs, the Cabela's, Bass Pro and others. Hope you have made your selection in all of the different price ranges, for now is the time to start leaving the catalogs and flyers with all of the items you need highlighted and pages folded for everyone to see. You should by now have decided where to place those catalogs so that Santa Clause can find them.

I like it when I get all of my shopping done early (this doesn't happen very often for me) and then go to the Malls and just watch all the hustle and bustle, just watching the same car circle the parking lot several times hunting that parking place near the mall entrance, the puzzled look on the different faces as people make their final purchases. I can just see it in their eyes - I will get this and if they don't like it they can return it, (that will be fun.) You must understand you are doing those shoppers a good deed when you leave those catalogs lying out in plan view and plainly marked. Gift cards are nice but I especially like the envelopes you get at the bank where you put pictures in the little window, like George Washington, Alexander Hamilton or maybe Andrew Jackson, (I always dream of getting a picture or pictures of Ulysses Grant or Ben Franklin).

OH YES and don't forget our Rendezvous coming up Jan. 24th. Lots of bluegrass music, food, raffles, silent auction, and a first this time, a live auction, lots of other stuff and did I mention plenty of food? Mark your calendar and make plans now.

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>

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Send them to: [edadams1@alltel.net](mailto: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:

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RABUN CHAPTER of TROUT UNLIMITED

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