



TIGHT LINES March 2009 Newsletter of the

Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited

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

"Only those become weary of angling who bring nothing to it but the idea of catching fish."
Rafael Sabatine (1875-1950)

RABUN TU CHAPTER'S MEETING PLACE

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

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

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

At every regular chapter meeting there will be a raffle for fishing or camping items to help pay the cost of mailing the newsletter to members without E-mail. Bring an item to donate and a dollar or two for raffle tickets - you might win something.

"There is a lot of amiable fantasy written about trout fishing, but the truth is that few men know much if anything about the habits of trout and little more about the manner of taking them." From "Trout Madness" by Robert Traver

"FORWARD CASTING" Important Dates – See you there!

Mar 7 (Sat Morning) GA TU Council Meeting, 9 AM in Dahlenega
Mar 7 (Sat Evening) Mountain Bridge TU Chapter (SC) 50th Anniversary Banquet; 6:00 pm – until; **Speaker:** Rabunite Jeff Durniak; **Theme:** Mentoring our Youth;
For details, click <http://www.mbtu.org/webdocs/banquet.html>

Mar 17 (Tues) Chapter Meeting 6:30 PM, Community B&T, **Program:** John Cross – "Fly Fishing This Season"

Mar 21 (Sat) Hoot on the Hooch with drawing for the 2009 Dream Trip! For details, visit <http://georgiafoothills.org/>

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

Mar 28 (Sat) AM Opening Day for Seasonal Trout Streams in GA

Mar 28 (Sat) PM Satolah Fire Department Bluegrass & Bar-B-Q

Apr 4 (Sat Morning) Rabunite 101 - Rabun TU's Fly Fishing School for Adults: Rabun County Recreation Center A half-day fly-fishing for trout seminar for adults (male and female age 16 years and older). The seminar will cover equipment, casting, knots and entomology. To attend or to volunteer to help, contact Charlie Breithaupt . Ph 706 782 6954 E-mail knc615@windstream.net

Apr 4 (Sat Evening) Oconee River TU Chapter Fundraiser in Athens

Apr 18 (Sat) Tailwater TU Smith Creek Workday with GA WRD at Unicoi S.P.

Apr 21 (Tues) Chapter Meeting 6:30 PM, Community B&T, **Program:** David Cannon - "Fishing Photography".

Apr 24 & 25 (Fri & Sat) Rabun TU's Campout Fri Night with Workday Sat Morning for BtB with USFS/GA WRD leading work on North Fork Moccasin Creek and camping beside the Wildcat Creek Road.

Apr 28 (Tues) BOD Meeting, 6:30 PM, Community B&T.

2009 RABUNITE 101 (1/2-day fly-fishing workshop) – Sat. AM, April 4th

2009 GA Trout Camp; June 7th – 12th Volunteer mentors needed for both

FLY OF THE MONTH

by Terry Rivers



WHITE CRYSTAL BUGGER

GREAT FLY TO HAVE WHEN THE WATER IS STAINED AFTER BIG RAINS. TIE THIS WITH SOME WEIGHT OR GET IT DOWN DEEP AND DEAD DRIFT. SEE Y'ALL ON THE RIVER

HOOK: #8/#10 3X STREAMER HOOK
TAIL: WHITE OR TAN MARABOU ADD FLASHABOU
BODY: WHITE CRYSTAL CHENILE OR OPAL ESTAZ
HEAD: GOLD BEAD
THREAD: TAN 6/0

"Contemporary flies tend to be constructed to imitate insects and crustaceans, only a few of which might be considered to be "beautiful." Most of those primary-colored flies from yesteryear, with names like Knight Templar and Parmacheene Belle, have long since surrendered their spring clips to unpretentious Woolly Worms, Zug Bugs and a plethora of uniformly achromatic concoctions. Obviously the latter category must work better than their gaudy ancestors or they wouldn't be there. But it's kind of sad to see the ornate, colorful creations of Prime, Cheney and Wells follow horse-drawn milk wagons and nickel beers into the mists of history."

George Wentzel, "Back to the Parmacheene" in Flyfishing March-April 1984

March Hatches

Happy New Dry Fly Season – Waaaaah WHOooooo!

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
Early Black Stone	All Month	L am to M pm	16-18 Black Elk-hair Caddis or Griffith's Gnat 16-18 Black Stone Nymph
Small Dun Caddis (Important)	All Month	L am to M pm	16-18 Brown Elk-hair or Deer-hair Caddis 16-18 Grey Caddis Pupa
Blue Winged Olive & Blue Quill	All Month	L am to M pm	16-18 BWO, Blue Quill or Adams Parachute 16-18 BWO or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Quill Gordon (Important)	All Month	L am to M pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph
Cream Caddis (Important)	Late	M day to L pm	12-14 Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Red Quill (Hendrickson)	Mid to Late	M day to L pm	14-16 Red Quill or Hendrickson 14-16 Pheasant Tail Nymph
March Brown (very Important)	Mid to Late	L am to M pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 March Brown, Dark Hare's Ear, or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Midges	All Month	M am to L pm	18-20 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa

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

Eighteen (18) members of Rabun TU are volunteering 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 weekly by trained employees of the Chattooga Conservancy and transferred (by a chain-of-custody procedure) to a TU volunteer.

The volunteer schedule through the winter and spring is as follows: **Doug Adams** (2/24); **Terry Rivers** (3/3); **June Landreth** (3/10); **Jimmy Whiten** (3/17); **Larry Walker** (3/24); **Ray Kearns** (3/31); **Doug Mansfield** (4/7); **Kathy Breithaupt** (4/14); **Tim McClure** (4/21); **Kathy Breithaupt** (4/28); **Charlie Breithaupt** (5/5); **Gary Deal** (5/12); **Ray Gentry** (5/19); **Lea Richmond** (5/26); **Eedee Adams** (6/2); **Travis Barnes** (6/9); **Tom Matthews** (6/16); **Bill Kelly** (6/23); & **Fritz Vinson** (6/30)

Current Status: The City of Clayton has issued the "request for proposal" prepared by the Fix Sewers Group of the Stekoa Creek Task Force. Several consulting engineering contractors are preparing proposals to present to the city. Some contractors have been reviewing the details of the spreadsheet and have found it very helpful in scoping the extent of the work needed.

The City of Clayton has submitted an application for funding from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs. Each year, the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority's (GEFA) SRF programs submit an application and Intended Use Plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for SRF funding. This application allows Georgia's Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF programs to receive the state's share of funds appropriated each year by Congress to the State Revolving Fund programs.

GEFA anticipates applying for any available "stimulus" funding for Georgia's Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF programs. Additionally, GEFA expects to apply for Georgia's 2009 annual allotments. GEFA is preparing a "Comprehensive List" of potential projects to be funded through the Georgia Clean Water or Drinking Water SRF program in the next year and a half (regardless of funding source). GEFA will use this single comprehensive list of eligible clean water and drinking water projects to support Georgia's application for "stimulus" funding and regular program appropriations.

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

At the Rabun TU Chapter's Annual Planning Meeting on February 7th, the Chapter committed to the following:

> Rabun TU Chapter has budgeted up to \$5,000 for lab fees through the end of 2009. This will include testing samples from the Stekoa watershed, Falling Branch, and from above and below the confluence with the W&S Chattooga River. (The EAS grants have been completed and closed, the 2009 funds are from Rabun TU Chapter and the GA TU Council).

> Rabun TU Chapter will coordinate and provide volunteers for "Driving for Trout" through June 30, 2009. For 28 months, 20 Rabun TU members have volunteered their time and vehicle expenses. We suggested that the Chattooga Conservancy consider asking its membership to volunteer to drive the samples beginning July 7th. Several of the Rabun TU members have expressed a willingness to continue to volunteer to drive if the Conservancy coordinates the program with its membership after June.

Want to help with the Stekoa monitoring? For info on where you or your organization can send a donation to help pay lab fees E-mail edadams1@windstream.net. All donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501(c) 3 non-profit) are tax deductible.

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

"All the information you need to fish the Chattooga."

What 's New Elsewhere?

The following was the lead editorial in The Clayton Tribune <http://theclaytontribune.com/>

Our Opinion: Yes, you can make a difference (1/21/2009)

Don't let it be said that writing letters to your elected representatives is a waste of time. Rabun County learned last week that the Lake Burton Fish Hatchery would not be a victim to the latest round of budget cuts ordered by Gov. Sonny Perdue. Many Rabun residents in recent months wrote the governor about how closing the hatchery would harm the local economy. One that had a particular effect came from former commission chairman Pat Marcellino Sr., who stressed the negative economic impact that closing the hatchery would cause. The hatchery has an annual operating budget of just under \$400,000, which seems like small potatoes compared to the economic benefits the hatchery provides. County Administrator Jim Bleckley pointed out that the hatchery attracts tourists, especially those who spend a lot of money during their visits here. Anyone

who had a part in the letter-writing campaign should take partial credit in the short-term victory. Bad economic news seems ready to greet residents around every corner, and Rabun can at least rest until the next round of budget cuts come. The greater lesson may be what can happen if people get involved at the grassroots level. That type of awareness and dedication will be sorely needed in the coming years as the local, state and national economies attempt to dig out from the worst crisis in most of our lifetimes. During his inauguration speech Tuesday, President Barack Obama stressed the importance of regular citizens getting involved, and he asked everyone to do his or her part to get America back on the right track. From what we've seen locally, such resolve can make a difference.

Editor's notes: *Thank you Rabunites, you did good.*

Mack Martin submitted the following article to TIGHT LINES.

Learn & Go Fly Fishing!

Introducing friends to fly fishing just got easier and more affordable. The **Atlanta Fly Fishing School, River Through Atlanta Guide Service and Unicoi Outfitters** have just joined in alliance to offer a complete fly-fishing education and river fishing package for those who want to learn the great sport of fly fishing. This package will provide a 5.5 hour course in fly fishing, including all aspects of fly fishing and fly casting with all equipment provided. Following the classroom and outdoor

casting, students will have their choice of fishing for a half day on a guided float trip on the lower Chattahoochee River or a half day wading guided trip on the upper Chattahoochee River. The new package rates are very affordable and provide the perfect introduction to fly fishing for anyone getting into the sport. These programs and rates are shown on the Atlanta Fly Fishing School website at <http://www.atlantaflyfishingschool.com/>, then click on "Learn-N-Go".

The following article was submitted to TIGHT LINES by Malcolm Leaphart (1/21/2009)

SC Trout Unlimited (TU) Council Honors Don Eng

At the January 12, 2009 Saluda River TU Chapter meeting in Columbia, SC, charter member Don Eng was recognized for lifetime achievements with the SC Trout Unlimited 2008 *'Palmetto Trout Award'*. Past Council Chair and fellow chapter charter member, Malcolm Leaphart, summarized Don's many efforts for coldwater fisheries management before presenting the award.

Malcolm first noted that Don had been awarded a special *'Friends of Trout'* award from TU upon his retirement as Supervisor of the National Forests in SC for his sound natural resources management, including coldwater fisheries. In addition to watershed protection in the forests of SC, Don was instrumental in helping to fund and in actively supporting with staffing the three year macro-invertebrate and other studies of the of the National Wild and Scenic Chattooga River in the 1980's. That multi-agency effort of the SC GA, and NC Forest Services with TU and the state fisheries agencies of the three states, gave impetus to the 'Chattooga Coalition' of agency and advocate groups which still meets and works together to improve the Chattooga trout fishery by sharing data and coordinating projects. The three-year project also galvanized the Saluda River and Mountain Bridge (Greenville, SC) TU Chapters and the SC Council of TU; and also helped to advance the formation of the Chattooga River TU Chapter in Clemson, SC plus the Rabun TU and Georgia Foothills TU Chapters in GA.

In addition to his support throughout his career with the US Forest Service, Don was one of 12 charter members along with Malcolm when the Saluda River Chapter was formed in 1982. Over the years, Don served in many chapter roles, including as a

Board of Directors member, a term as chapter President, and also as a SC TU Council chapter delegate for more than 10 years. That personal involvement from a federal resource agency leader was noteworthy as it demonstrated Don's strong personal convictions about protecting and enhancing coldwater fisheries.

In the past decade, Don continued as an active TU chapter member, serving on the Saluda Shoals Park Development Board, and as a local chapter representative in meetings with SC DNR and also with SC Electric & Gas, including the multi-year Saluda hydro relicensing process. A strong advocate for both safety concerns in the lower Saluda and fisheries, Don long championed better flows and dissolved oxygen maintenance for this unique and significant trout fishery in the midlands of SC. Don was also a Board member and a long time Freshwater Fisheries Chair for the SC Wildlife Federation and fostered networking of resource conservation groups in those roles, including SC TU Federation affiliated chapters for many years.

Don has continued in recent years with advocacy for the upstate trout waters of SC, especially the Chattooga where he worked in support of maintaining the foot traffic only access to the section of river above Highway 28. That zoning strategy which allowed boating, including commercial operations, in the lower 30 miles of river and the West Fork, has been successful for over 30 years since national 'Wild and Scenic' River status was granted in protecting the wilderness experience and trout fishery above Highway 28.

Editor's notes: *Don has been battling cancer since mid 2008.*

Volunteers needed for Chattooga Anglers Diary: If you are going to fish the Chattooga North Fork for 5 or more times by the end of December and want to provide information for GA & SC DNR professionals to use in future fisheries management, please volunteer to keep a diary of your fishing experiences. To request a diary, contact Doug Adams edadams1@windstream.net

Georgia TU Joins Georgia Environmental Action Network (GEAN) (1/14/2009)

I am excited to announce our new partnership with the Georgia Environmental Action Network (GEAN)! We join thousands of conservationists throughout Georgia in sixteen other conservation organizations.

GEAN is a program of Georgia Conservation Voters formed to help make sure the environment we enjoy now is the same one your children and grandchildren will get to experience.

As important issues arise, Georgia Trout Unlimited will partner on those that correspond to our mission to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. GEAN will send you an alert email. You will see the Georgia Trout Unlimited listed as a participating organization in the alert email. An editable message, which Georgia Trout Unlimited has reviewed, along with a list of recipients is provided by the alert system. After you approve the message with the click of a button, it is emailed to the appropriate decision-makers to let them know what you think. This is an easy, convenient way for you to support positions that Georgia Trout Unlimited feels are important. You can also unsubscribe to the alerts if you desire.

We are excited about this partnership and online system. We hope you find it easy to use.

Charlie Breithaupt – Chairman, GA TU Council

GEAN does not have positions on specific issues

A TU member's concern: Please let me know GEAN's position on the expansion of nuclear energy, both in Georgia and in the rest of the country.

Answer: The Georgia Environmental Action Network (GEAN) is a network of conservation organizations throughout that allows these organizations to work together on important conservation issues. However, GEAN itself is not an organization, but rather an administrative system, and therefore does not have positions on specific issues, including the expansion of nuclear power. The network's member organizations do have varied positions on issues such as the expansion of nuclear power, but as you have been signed up for GEAN as a TU member, you will only receive those alerts that Trout Unlimited had agreed to send to their members. Since Trout Unlimited has indicated to GEAN that they do not see nuclear power as a cold-water conservation issue at this time, you and your fellow Trout Unlimited members will not receive alerts asking you to take action in support of or against nuclear power. Further questions regarding positions on specific issues may best be answered by TU leadership.

Samantha Gibson - Program Associate

Rabunite 101 - An Introduction to Fly Fishing for Trout.

On Saturday, April 4, 2009, the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited will offer a 4 hour seminar including casting, entomology, knots and equipment to folks who want to get started in the pleasure of fly fishing for trout. The location will be at the Rabun County Recreation Center just south of Rabun County High School. We will be able to accommodate 28 students and the cost of \$25 per person will include lunch.

Do you know someone that might be interested?

Tell them to contact Kathy or Charlie Breithaupt to make reservations. knc615@windstream.net or (706) 782-6954

Members of the Rabun Chapter are needed to instruct and help in other ways.

Please save that date and let Kathy and Charlie Breithaupt know if you can help.

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

The winner and their partner will each receive:

- 5 days fishing with Guide Butch Martin 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

Plus 11 great runner up prizes: Guided fishing at Pine Island Florida for redfish, snook, tarpon, sea trout etc.; 2 drawings for a custom made Temple Fork Fly rods worth approximately \$200 each; a 5-day trip to the Kasba Lodge in the Northwest Territories of Canada for one with the only restriction that the trip is for 2 with the 2nd person paying their own way; a full day guided float trip on the Chattahoochee River for 2 including lunch and drinks; a half-day unguided fishing for 2 in trophy trout waters at Nacoochee Bend near Helen; a weeks stay for 2 or possibly more at a cabin on the Baldwin River in Michigan with quick access to the historic Pere Marquette River with the choice of salmon, rainbows, steelhead and/or brown trout depending on the season chosen; a certificate for your choice of fly-fishing or fly-casting class at the Atlanta Fly-Fishing School; and last but not least, 3 drawings for fly boxes loaded with flies.

The winners will be drawn at the Georgia Foothills Chapter of Trout Unlimited annual "Hoot on the Hooch" banquet 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. Eleven other winners will be drawn for the runner up prizes. 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





Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Custom Fly Rod Raffle

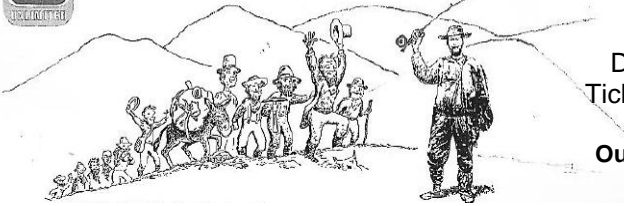
Winston Blx, 9 ft, 4 wt, 4 pc, Boron/Graphite

Over \$600 Retail Value!!

Drawing on July 21st at the Annual Summer Family Picnic
Tickets are \$3 each or 4 for \$10; Contact Pat Hopton for Tickets
Ph 706 782 4978 E-mail scotts_creek58@yahoo.com

Our good friend Mack Martin of North Georgia Custom Rods has
donated this fly rod to Rabun TU.

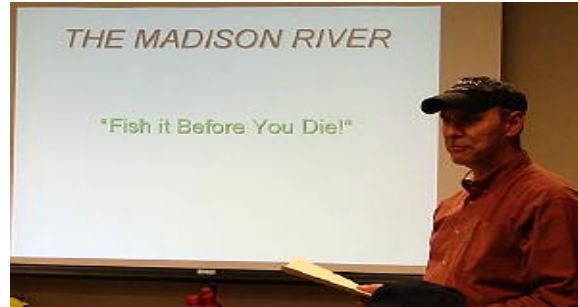
<http://www.mackmartin.com/CustomRods.htm>



"BACKCASTING"

Jan 20 (Tues) Chapter Meeting – 26 Rabunites attended Program was presented by Jimmy Harris – "The Madison River – Fish it Before You Die." Jimmy gave us a beautiful PowerPoint slide show presentation on the Madison River, MT with pictures of brown & rainbow trout, pools & brown trout, runs & brown trout, riffle & brown trout, fly rods & brown trout, landing nets & brown trout, grass & brown trout, mountains & brown trout, smiling fishermen & brown trout, sunsets and beautiful butter-colored brown trout.

To read the story of their 2008 trip, click [HERE](#) see page 4, "GOT A CAMERA?" - West of Hiwassee 2008



Trout Camp Alumnus Ben Houston loss all possession when his home burned in December. Charlie Breithaupt presented Ben with donated fly rod and reel, a loaded vest, and all the equipment to replace his fishing gear.



Ben, Charlie & box w/ wading shoes



Ben, Charlie & a Kelly Size Creel



Dredger & Ben

Meeting raffle had 10 buckets with 3 fly selections, a jar of local sourwood honey, a bottle of wine, a Cabela's Mini Tool, a book from the Tom Landreth Estate, and much more. The raffle raised \$120 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.

Jan 24 (Sat) 22nd Annual Rabun Rendezvous: A Huge Success

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited proudly presented a celebration of rivers, streams, trout, and trout fishing. The event was the 22nd annual Rabun Rendezvous. It took place in the newly expanded Dillard House Conference Center and was attended by 280 conservationists from near and far. In addition to Rabunites, there are a large number of out-of-town folks that come each year for the Rendezvous. The Dillard House motel booked about 55 rooms for guests attending.

The festivities began in the afternoon with a bar-b-que pickin', bluegrass music by The Foxfire Boys (all of whom are members of Trout Unlimited), Rabun trout fishing videos on a large screen TV and a full size Indian teepee for kids of all ages to enjoy. Just inside the building there were over 200 items on silent auctions and bucket raffles. Local businesses, artists and craftspeople donated most of the auction and raffle items. The Dillard House prepared a serve-yourself buffet, so none left hungry.

After dinner, Noel Holcomb – the retiring Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, presented the program about his career in wildlife management and the TU/ GA WRD partnership.

Prez Jimmy Whiten presented Noel with a Tom Landreth framed LE print titled "Chattooga" in appreciation. Jimmy then presented Mack Martin of the Atlanta Fly Fishing School with a

Tom Landreth framed LE print titled "Morning Mist" in appreciation of his years of support for Rabun TU.

For the GA Council of TU, Mack presented Josh Barnett the "Young-of-the-Year" award for his dedication and leadership in TU while still a teenager. The GA Council of TU presented Bob Foster a special award in appreciation of his many years of service as a TU leader in his Chapter, in the state Council, and in National TU.

For the past 21 years, funds raised by the annual Rendezvous have been used in local support of the Chapter's mission to educate youth in coldwater conservation and to protect, preserve and enhance water quality and trout fisheries in Northeast Georgia.

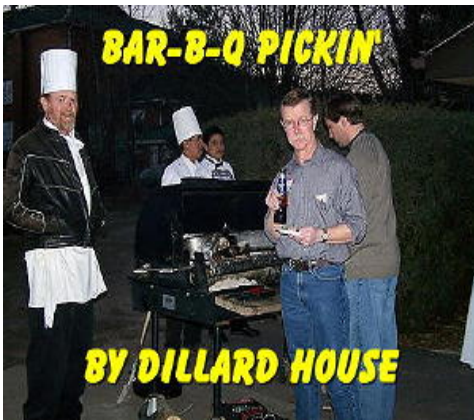
22nd Annual Rabun Rendezvous Income Summary

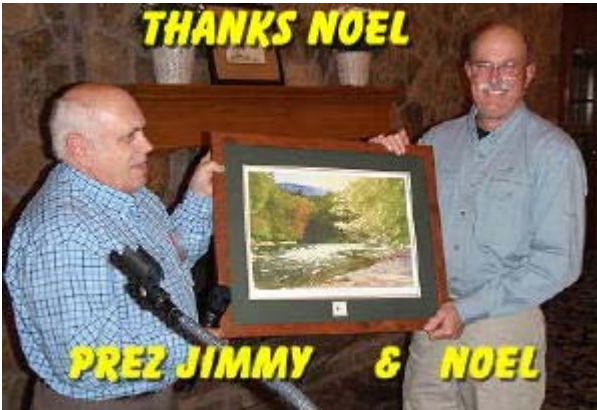
\$8,180 for meal tickets
\$8,484 for silent auction sales for 121 items
\$700 for a special auction of a Landreth original
\$3,823 for raffle ticket sales on 80 buckets & 146 items
\$540 for Dream Trip raffle tickets sales
\$21,727 total gross revenue

\$14,635 net cleared after all expenses

Plus \$2,492 in cash donations & advanced sales

Memories from The 2009 Rabun Rendezvous
Fun, Fellowship, & funds - all for coldwater conservation





Today's young people are tomorrow's coldwater conservationists.



Photos provided by Patsy Gentry, Kathy Breithaupt, Amanda Adams, Allison Adams & Doug Adams

Feb 3 (Tues) 23rd Annual Chattooga Coalition Meeting in Franklin, NC – 6 Rabunites, 2 SC TU leaders, representatives from the USDA Forest Service and State DNR fisheries professionals from GA, SC & NC participated. The agenda included: Update on Upper Chattooga Management, Update on N.C. Forest Planning process, 2008 Macro-Invertebrate Sampling, 2008 Chattooga North Fork Fisherman Diaries, 2008 Temperature Monitoring, 2008 Stocking, 2008 Electro-shock Fish Sampling, Water Chemistry Including Stekoa Cr., Woody Debris Survey Report, Wilderness Standards, and Chattooga headwaters night fishing in NC.

Feb 7 (Sat) Annual Planning Breakfast: 14 members met to develop the annual plan for the Chapter.

Items on the agenda were:

Rabun Rendezvous de-briefing - What we can do to make the next Rendezvous even better.

2009 Budgeted Expenditures – The Chapter had over \$32,000 available and needed to properly allocate its expenditure to support our TU mission.

2009 Calendar – Dates were set for the upcoming Chapter activities during the next 12 months.

2009 Chapter Meeting Programs – The Chapter needs 9 meeting programs each year.

The results of the 2009 Budgeted Expenditure Planning are as follows:

CHAPTER OPERATIONS - \$2,900 (Includes: newsletter, website, annual planning breakfast, memorials, equipment, administrative supplies, meeting expenses, postage, accountant services)

YOUTH & EDUCATION - \$8,300 (Includes: funding for 2 kids to attend GA Trout Camp, Smithgall Woods Youth Education Program, student interns working in cold-water fisheries with GA WRD, Fly Fishing for Vets, GA DNR Outdoor Adventure Day at Unicoi State Park, Casting for Recovery, kids fishing events at Black Rock Mountain State Park and US Forest Service Tallulah River, gift TROUT magazine subscriptions to 3 libraries and 3 state parks in Rabun County, gift TU memberships)

CONSERVATION PROJECTS - \$9,250 (Includes: Stekoa Creek Monitoring Project, Stop I-3 Coalition, GA Back-the-Brookie project funding from the special auction of a Tom Landreth original, GA DNR critical lands acquisition, GA Wildlife Federation's Camo Coalition, in-stream volunteer workdays, backcountry helicopter stocking of the Chattooga North and West Forks funded by the Tom Landreth Memorial Fund)

NATIONAL PROGRAMS - \$3,000 (Includes: First Cast – youth fly-fishing education initiative, Southeastern Land Protection Coordinator, Embrace-A-Stream program, General Fund donation provided by the Clayton Wal*Mart)

TU OUTREACH & CONTIGENCY - \$1,850

TOTAL 2009 BUDGET - \$25,300

2009 Calendar - You Don't Want to Miss These

9 Regular Monthly Chapter Meetings with Programs & Raffles on 3rd Tues evenings, 6:30 PM: 2/17, 3/17, 4/21, 6/16, 8/18, 9/15, 10/20, 11/17, 1/19/2010

GA Women Fly Fishers Fundraiser (2/21) in Atlanta

Mountain Bridge TU Chapter Fundraiser (3/7) in Greenville

Hoot-on-the-Hooch (3/21) on Sat evening where the 2009 Dream Trip Raffle winners will be drawn.

Mentoring – The 1/2-Day Fly Fishing School (a.k.a. Rabunite 101) (4/4) Sat morning by the Rabunites at Rabun County Recreation Center

Oconee River TU Chapter Fundraiser (4/4) in Athens on Sat Evening
Workday – Smith Creek (4/18) with Tailwater Chapter & WRD leading work

Workday - for BtB with Camping (4/24 – 4/25) Fri camping & Sat morning workday with USFS/GA WRD leading work on North Fork Moccasin Creek and camping beside the Wildcat Creek Road,

SE Regional Rally (5/2 & 5/3) Hungry Mother State Park, VA

Blue Ridge Mountain TU Chapter Fundraiser (5/9) High Country Boil
Spring Camping & Fishing Outing (5/13 – 5/17) the Upper Chattooga backcountry, Wed – Sun with camping at Cherry Hill Campground

Mentoring - Annual Spring Family Cookout (5/18) 4 PM Monday at Indian Lake, with Boy &/or Girl Scout Troops as our guests.

Workday - Betty Creek In-Stream Trimming/Clean-up (5/23) 9 AM in preparation for GA Trout Camp

Mentoring - Annual Kids Fishing Event (6/6) 9 AM Saturday morning at Tallulah River with USFS

Mentoring - 6th Annual Georgia Trout Camp (6/7 – 6/12) from Sun – Fri; we need all the help we can get for this.

Mentoring – The 1/2-Day Fly Fishing School (a.k.a. Rabunite 101) (7/18) Sat morning by the Rabunites at Tallulah Falls State Park

Annual Summer Family Picnic (7/21) 6 PM at Kelly's Waterfall Park on Tues Evening

National TU Annual Meeting (8/18 – 8/22) in MI

Workday – Waters Creek (TBD) with NGTO, TU, USFS & WRD

Late Summer Camping & Fishing Outing (9/16 – 9/20) with camp at the Blackwell Place and fishing in the Chattooga West Fork watershed from Wed – Sun

Mentoring - Outdoor Adventure Day (9/26) with GA DNR at Unicoi

Gold Rush TU Chapter Fundraiser (10/3) in Dahlonega

Coosa Valley TU Chapter Chili Cook off (10/10) in Rome

Fall Camping & Fishing Outing (11/4 – 11/8) with camping at Long Bottom and fishing in Chattooga DH and backcountry from Wed – Sun

Annual Family Christmas Dinner (12/8) 6 PM at Dillard House Conference Center Board Room on Tues evening

23rd Annual Rabun Rendezvous (1/23/2010) at Dillard House Conference Center

24th Annual Chattooga Coalition Meeting (TBD)

Annual Planning Meeting (2/6/2010) with 8 AM breakfast meeting at the Dillard House where we set our budget and planned expenditures for 2010.

GA TU Council Meetings (3/7) in Dahlonega, (6/3) at BPS, (9/19) at AFFS, & (12/5) at USFS.

11 Monthly Rabun TU Board of Directors Meetings on 4th Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM each month except December:

Workday - Every Tuesday Morning (Jan – June) A Rabun TU Volunteer transports Stekoa Creek water samples to certified lab.

Summary:

26 Stekoa Creek Sample Days

11 Mentoring Days

4 In-Stream Volunteer Workdays

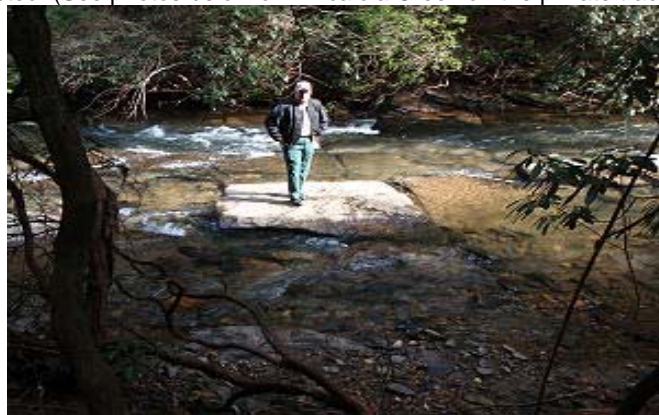
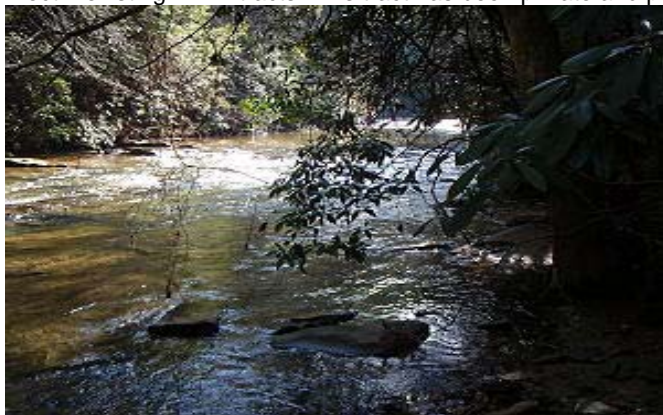
9 Meeting Programs & 3 Social Family Meetings

1 Major Fundraiser – The Rabun Rendezvous

16 Camping Days (with fishing, campfire stories, & bluegrass)

WAAaaah WHOoooo!

Feb 10 (Tues) Possible Land Acquisition by GA WRD Charlie Breithaupt (GA TU Council Chairman), Jim Kidd (Retired USFS Lands Officer), Terry Rivers (Rabun TU Past President), and Doug Adams (Rabun TU Treasurer) travel to Amicalola Creek in Dawson Forest to gather information concerning a 469 acre tract with 1.8 miles of a large primary trout stream (Amicalola Creek). The 4 met with 2 representatives of GA DNR/WRD. The GA DNR has requested TU support for the acquisition of this tract to connect 2 existing WMA tracts. This tract has been private and posted. (See photos below of Amicalola Creek on the private tract)



Amicalola Creek is a beautiful primary trout stream with a population of wild rainbow trout.



These 4 Rabunites believe it would be an excellent tract for public ownership by GA WRD. Don't you agree?

Feb 14 (Sat) Blue Ridge Mountain Chapter Meeting – 2 Rabunites (Jim Kidd & Charlie Breithaupt) presented the LWCF program.

Feb 17 (Tues) Chapter Meeting – 18 members attended. **Program:** Jim Kidd provided a PowerPoint presentation “Getting our share of LWCF funds”. Jim provide a history of how the Forest Service lands were acquired in the southeast starting with the 1911 Weeks Act up until 1964 with the setting up of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/LWCF/> . Jim then explained how the LWCF process works and the important role of partners like TU members.

Meeting raffle had 9 buckets with 2 fly selections, a pair of light weight waders from the Tom Landreth estate, a jar of local sourwood honey, a knife, a rod holder, and much more. The raffle raised \$86 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 the members who purchased raffle tickets.

Feb 21 (Sat) GA Women Flyfishers Mardi Gras Fundraiser - 2 Rabunites attended and donated items for the fundraiser.

Feb 24 (Tues) Board of Directors Meeting – 8 BOD members attended. Agenda items included: The proposed Sarah’s Creek low water crossing replacement with a half culvert; Recap– Annual Chattooga Coalition Meeting; Updates - 2009 Rabunite 101, Stekoa Creek / Fix City Sewers, Dream Trip Raffle ticket sales, Spring Custom Fly Rod Raffle, Rabun TU Sponsoring 2 Kids for 2009 Trout Camp; Chapter Meeting Programs for Mar 17 & Apr 21, The July 25th 1/2-Day Fly Fishing School at Tallulah Falls State Park; Mar 7th GA TU Council Meeting; Mar 7th Mountain Bridge TU Chapter (SC) 50th Anniversary Banquet; Mar 21st Hoot on the Hooch; Updates - Outreach to other TU Chapters for Fundraising, Publicity, Treasury Report & Tom Landreth Memorial Fund.

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. 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 2009, click [HERE](#)

“There are lots of reasons you might want to fish on public land, as opposed to, say, a well known tailwater. First of all, there’s privacy. Nothing beats a remote forest creek for solitude; you won’t see any canoes or party floats here.”

“Googling the Backcountry” by Zach Matthews, [American Angler](#) magazine, March/April, 2009

More Very Sad News



Arthur Crowe, Jr. 84, member of Rabun TU, died on January 13th. Arthur was a life-long resident of Cobb County. A veteran of WWII, he served in the U.S. Army 9th Infantry Division. He participated in the Normandy invasion in June 1944, on D-Day Plus One, and the Battle of the Bulge, and served through the end of the war in Europe. Arthur was admitted to the Georgia Bar Association in 1958, after graduating from Woodrow Wilson Law School in Atlanta. He opened private law practice in Marietta in 1959 and continued to practice law in Marietta before retiring from the Georgia Bar Association in 1999. Arthur served as primary fundraiser for the Smyrna 20th Century Veterans Memorial, which was dedicated in 2002. Arthur is survived by his wife and 5 children. Arthur was an avid outdoorsman all his life; he was one of the first Eagle scouts in Cobb County, a private pilot, a Georgia Bulldog enthusiast, and an organic gardener long before it was fashionable. He was an accomplished fly fisherman, bird hunter, and recovering bird egg collector. His hobbies included woodworking, stamp collecting, traveling the world, writing letters to the editor of the Marietta Daily Journal, and skydiving; on his 84th birthday, he jumped out of a perfectly good airplane. Contributions may be made to Marietta Museum of History, One Depot Street, Marietta, GA 30060.

Editor's notes: *Arthur was a member of the Cohutta TU Chapter when I met him on THE RIVER about dark one spring*

evening, some 20+ years ago. In about 3 minutes, we were friends. He later transferred his membership to the Rabun Chapter (and he was still is a Rabun TU member when he died).

We made some wonderful memories over the next 12 or 15 years, including a road trip to WY in the fall of 1992, camping and trout fishing for a week. And then I rendezvoused in WY with Arthur, Clay Hudgins and the late John Martin (also Rabun TU members) in 1996, 1998 and 2001. Arthur and his wife came to the Rendezvous every year in the 1990's.

'Old Crowe', I'll catch up with you later, - - around the bend.

Doug

Ben Sanders, 69, retired USFS wildlife biologist, old friend of the Rabunites, and Associate Member of Klondike Enterprises, passed away on January 14th. He was born in MS and he grew up in Piedmont, AL and Dahlonega, Ga. where his father was a professor of biology at North Georgia College. He attended Lumpkin County High School, Young Harris College and the University of Georgia. He joined the Navy and was stationed aboard a destroyer, which served as an escort for a carrier in the Gulf of Tonkin. These ships were fired on and this action is recognized as the beginning of the U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam. After his discharge, Ben returned to UGA and received his degree in forestry. He was employed by the U.S. Forest Service and was assigned to national forests in AL, FL and NC before joining the GA staff as a wildlife biologist at their office in Gainesville. Ben was married to Mary Lee Sanders, who preceded him in death by 6 days.

Editor's notes: *I met Ben in 1985, more than a year before the Rabun TU Chapter was founded. He had been seeking information on the source of the invasive Allegheny Dual Blue Leaf Stake Plant (I don't know the Latin on that, maybe Dr, Atkinson does). We fished, we camped and we worked on stream habitat enhancement projects together for several years, until Ben retired. I custom made a fly rod for Ben in 1987. Ben presented the program at the 7th Annual Rabun Rendezvous in 1994. He was a good friend and we made some good memories. Doug*

Letters To the Rabunites

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Subject: Re: TIGHT LINES February 2009 Newsletter

Enjoyed the newsletter. Good warning to anglers. re. Their sport will decline in future years without parent or big brother input. Best regards, **From:** Edwin Dale – Athens, GA

Sent: Saturday, January 17, 2009

Subject: Re: TIGHT LINES February 2009 Newsletter

I am afraid this is another year of missing the Rendezvous. You guys do a great job in N. GA. Keep up the good work and keep the newsletters coming. I enjoy them very much.

From: David Edens - Blue Ridge Rods, Hickory, NC

Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2009

Subject: Re: TIGHT LINES January 2009 Supplement

Please pass along this notice from the Park Rangers on Deep Creek. There has been an unusually large black bear birthrate this year; further, there have been numerous sightings of Black Panthers over on Noland Creek. In addition to these cautions, the deadly Copperhead snake had increased in numbers on Eagle Creek. Wild Russian hogs are always very, very dangerous in all these areas. Conclusions: It would be best to avoid and cancel any trips to Deep Creek, Eagle Creek, Noland Creek and for good measure, Forney Creek this season and

If you have a comment or an opinion to share with the readers of TIGHT LINES, please submit it in 250 words or less to edadams1@windstream.net

especially in the spring, 2009. Doug, in the best interest of the fishermen your newsletter reaches, please pass along this warning. Thanks,

From: John Duncan – Franklin, NC

Editor's Notes: *Don't forget the timber rattlers and hornets.*

Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2009

Subject: Re: TIGHT LINES January 2009 Supplement

Doug, sorry we missed you at Arthur Crowe's visitation. He was a good man for Marietta and the outdoors. My mentor was Ted Bogle and they were friends. Thanks for coming down. See you next weekend. **From:** Sonny & Shirley Marshall – Marietta, GA

Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009

Subject: Re: TIGHT LINES January 2009 Supplement

Made it to "Old Crowe's" send off yesterday. As you might expect, it was a raucous affair for a memorial service. Lots of good things and stories told about our friend. He will be missed and things will not be the same around the campfire. Not sure I have know anybody who enjoyed the camp and associated outdoor activities as much as Crowe... They threw away the mold when they made him. Kyle was with me. Thought you would like to know. **From:** Jim Kidd – Clayton, GA

A BIG "Thank You" to the 95 Donors for the 2009 Rabun Rendezvous

Businesses & Organizations: Clayton Wal-Mart, Amrine's Equipment & Rentals, The Foxfire Boys, Dillard House, Unicoi Outfitters & Jimmy Harris; Atlanta Fly Fishing School & Mack Martin, Crawford Art Gallery - Michele & Broderick Crawford - Artist, Big Green Egg & Eggmania Central, Blue Ridge Music, Cabela's, Countryman Press, Reeve's Hardware, The Fish Hawk, Patagonia - Atlanta, Wilder Outdoors, Anglers Sport Group, Wapsi Fly, Morris Communications, Dyna-King, L.L. Bean, Greg's Tire & Service Center, Rabun County Bank, Prater's Books & Coffee Nook, Rabun County Concert Series, Gap Graphics & Printing, Mountain Nature & Wild Bird Supply, Cupboard Café, Feed Mill Restaurant, Kountry Vittles, Stockton House, Valley Café, Valley Drapery, Valley Pharmacy, Jim's Service Center, Rabun Animal Hospital, Total Therapy, Mountain Physical Therapy, Mane Design, Gagliano Custom Jewelry, Greenleaf Gallery, The Hollow Log, Butler Galleries, Wally Gardner - Wally G's Woodworks, David Cannon - Author, Maxine & Dick Albertelli - Artist; Patsy Lewis Gentry - Artist, Tom Landreth Estate, Coosa Valley TU Chapter, & National TU

Individuals: Noel Holcomb, Russ Burken, Russ Tyre, Don Edwards, Emily Perry, Robert Soens, Dave Humphrey, Jeff Durniak, Steve Raeber, Harlin Smith, Gordon Fowler, Cheryl & Rev. Don Barber, Don & Donna Thomson, Alex Watson, Sid Elliot, John McGarity, Garland Stewart, Julie & Duane Stalnaker, Cindy Vigil, Pat & Bob Foster, Leon Brotherton, Chris Peck, Dot & Ray Kearns, June Landreth, Maria Rodeghiero, Pat Hopton, Gail & Frank Tolbert, Kathy & Charlie Breithaupt, Jim Nixon, Monte Seehorn, Amanda, Brooks, Avril & Calder Adams, Allison Adams, Eedee & Doug Adams, Emmilyn & Terry Rivers, Sandy & Ralph Morgan, Jim & Carolyn Kidd, Fritz Vinson, Doug & Sheila Mansfield, Terry Seehorn, Ray Gentry, Doug Hickman, Larry Walker, Travis Barnes, Terri Allred, Ron Robeson, & Anonymous

THANK YOU

Our "THANKS" to **Don Edwards** (Garfield, GA), **Russ Burken** (Toccoa, GA), **Dave Humphrey** (Clarkesville, GA) and **Emily Perry** (Clayton, GA) for your cash donations to the Rabun TU Chapter to advance our mission to protect, preserve and enhance water quality and trout fisheries in Northeast Georgia.

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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Good luck to **Pat Gorman**, a young Rabunite college freshman, as you take the helm of the University of VT Fly Fishing Club.

Kyle Burrell has returned from his recent speaking (and fishing) engagement with a fly fishing club in California. Click [HERE](#)

Larry Walker a making a speedy recovery after his recent surgery.

We wish **Russ Burken** a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

We wish **Charlie Breithaupt** a quick return to stream wading after recently being rekned.

We offer our condolences to the family of **Arthur Crowe**. Arthur died on January 13th.

Peggy Crowe, Arthur's oldest daughter and avid fly angler, has assumed her father's membership in Rabun TU.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Big Rabunite "WELCOME" to **3 new members** this month: **Julian Patton**, 598 Hardy Farms Road, Martin, GA 30557; **Shane English**, 154 Prestwick Dr., Hoschton, GA 30548; and **Peggy Crowe** (transfer), 87 Louisiana Avenue, Asheville, NC 28806

Thanks for re-upping: **Billy Cook, Robert Larsen, Cecil Greene, Eugene Nolte, David F. Nichols, Marie Dunkle, John Harrison, Pamela Harrison, Troy Meek, Danny Cox** and **Patsy Gentry**,

It is time to renew your membership: **Frank Allan, Arnold Deitz, Patrick Gorman, Tom Guest, David Jordan, Donald MacLeod, Steve Denman, Rick Hires, Tracy McCoy** and **Pom Sinnock**.

Rabun TU has 20 "Life" & "Coldwater Conservation Fund" memberships

Rabun TU has 16 "Family" memberships and 3 "Sponsor" memberships

43% of Rabun TU members reside in Rabun County

43% of Rabun TU members reside in other counties in GA

14% of Rabun TU members reside in 11 other states

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) - **Terry Rivers**

Director (w/Rod Raffle) - **Pat Hopton**

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

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

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

Director **Ray Gentry**

Director **Ray Kearns**

Director **Jim Kidd**

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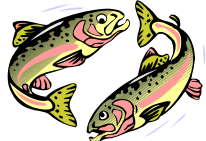
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From the Fly Tying Desk of Jimmy Whiten

Only 11 months to the next Rendezvous (23rd), I can't wait! This past one was a success - also bigger and better than years past and I think everyone that came had a great time.

Plans are now under way for the next Rendezvous; it should be bigger and better than ever. Also I'm sure we Rabunites will plan some great camping and fishing trips and of course, some workdays on the stream and continuing to help with the Stekoa Creek project. Not to mention some of the Rabunites are already dreaming of and making their plans for a trip out west. There will be the helicopter stocking with the matching money coming from the Tom Landreth Memorial Fund.

It is that time of year; time to refill your fly box with those secret hand tied flies (replacing all of those flies that were worn-out, given away or lost last season). Start looking at all of those catalogs you left out before Christmas (shopping hints for your family and friends, Cabela's, Bass Pro and others.) Make those selections, new reel, new rod, new line, and all of those must have items, just like the serious gardener ordering seeds for the spring. Don't forget to use those gift cards you have stuck back in that drawer.

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, or your comments about our Website and Newsletter.

Send them to: edadams1@windstream.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@windstream.net

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