



TIGHT LINES May 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/>

"The fly angler who says they have never, ever fallen while wading, is either a pathogenic liar, or has never been fly fishing." Jimmy D Moore

THE MAY MEETING is the ANNUAL FAMILY COOKOUT!
with Mentoring of Girl & Boy Scouts Fishing the Lake. Passing it on!

Place - Indian Lake Picnic Shelter on the Campus of RGNS – Rabun Gap, GA

Monday – May 18 4:30 pm – Fellowship & Lake Fishing 7:00 pm – Cook-out Meal
(Directions – go north on US 441, turn left at the Rabun Gap Post Office, go ¼ mile & turn left, go ¼ mile & turn right, go to end of road)

The Chapter will provide the hotdogs, hamburgers, drinks, plates, etc.
Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish, veggies, salad, chips, or a desert.
There will not be a raffle at the Family Cookout.

"For now, I've been savoring the mystery of my unexplored brook. I'm letting it fester and grow in my daydreams. ... Eventually, of course, I'll explore the brook and learn its realities, and it will no longer be a mystery. But for now, the daydreams are better" By Bill Tapply, "Trickle Treat," in Summer 2004 American Angler

"FORWARD CASTING" Important Dates – See you there!

May 1- 3 (Fri – Sun) Southeast Region TU Rally, Hungry Mother State Park, Marion VA
May 2 (Sat) Kids Fishing Event at Black Rock Mountain State Park 8 AM Passing it on!

May 9 (Sat) Blue Ridge Mountain TU Chapter High Country Boil - For details, visit [HERE](#)

May 13-17 (Wed – Sun) Camping & Fishing Chattooga Backcountry with Camping at Cherry Hill C.G. (with hot showers, flush toilets & tables) Nice place, great fishing & fellowship. Click [HERE](#) Location: Off SC Hwy 107, 1.5 mile south of Burrell's Ford Rd intersection. You need to contact Terry Rivers Ph 706 782 7419 E-mail tlr1121@windstream.net. He plans the menu and buys the grub! Y'all Come! Bring a friend! **Passing it on! WAaaaaahWHOoooo!**

May 18 (Mon) Annual Spring Family Cookout with Mentoring 4 PM at Indian Lake with Boy &/or Girl Scout Troops as our guests. Note the change to Monday because this is the weekly meeting night for the Scouts. (For details – see box above) **Passing it on!**

May 23 (Sat) Workday - Betty Creek In-Stream Trimming/Clean-up meet 9 AM at Betty Creek. Volunteers needed. Bring loppers, saws, pole pruners, work gloves, waders, etc.

May 26 (Tues) BOD Meeting – The location will be streamside

May 30 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting: 9 AM in Blairsville, GA

June 6 (Sat) Mentoring - Annual Kids Fishing Event, 8 AM at Tallulah River with USFS & GA WRD. Volunteers needed. **Passing it on!**

June 7 – 12 (Sun – Fri) 6th Annual GEORGIA TROUT CAMP at RGNS. **Passing it on!**

June 13 (Sat) Nationwide TU River Clean-up Day The Blue Ridge Mountain TU Chapter is hosting a river clean-up on the Toccoa River. You are invited to join in.

June 16 (Tues) Chapter Meeting, 6:30 PM, Community Bank and Trust Program – George Blankenship, Fisheries Mgmt for the Cherokee Nation – "The C & R Trophy Section"

June 23 (Tues) BOD Meeting 6:30 PM, Community Bank and Trust

Half-Day Fly-Fishing Seminar at Tallulah Falls State Park: July 18, Volunteers Needed

FLY OF THE MONTH by Terry Rivers



CREAM CADDIS

YOU NEED THESE FLIES IN YOUR BOX DURING MAY. THE COLOR OF THE CADDIS'S CAN CHANGE ANY TIME DURING THE MONTH. SEE YA'LL ON THE RIVER

HOOK: DRY FLY 12 THRU 18
THREAD: CREAM OR GINGER 6/0
BODY: CREAM DUBBING
HACKLE: CREAM PALMERED
WING: CREAM ELK HAIR

"The indications which tell your dry fly angler when to strike are clear and unmistakable, but those which bid a wet fly man raise his rod-point and draw in the steel are frequently so subtle, so evanescent and impalpable to the senses, that, when the bending rod assures him that he has divined aright, he feels an ecstasy as though he had performed a miracle each time." G.E.M. Skues (1910)

May 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
Cream Caddis	Early	M day to L pm	12-14 Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Small Dun Caddis	Early	L am to M pm	16-18 Gray Elk Hair or Deer Hair Caddis 16-18 Gray Caddis Pupa
March Brown Mayfly (Important)	Early	L am to M pm	12-14 Adams or March Brown Parachutes 10-14 March Brown Nymph, Dark Hare's Ear, or Pheasant Tail
Speckled Gray Caddis	All Month	M to L pm	12-14 Dark Elk Hair or Deer Hair Caddis 12-14 Dun & Yel/Brn Caddis Pupa
Yellow Stonefly	All Month	E to L am L pm to dark	14-16 Yellow Stimulator or Elk Hair Caddis (Yellow) 14-16 Yellow Stone Nymph
Giant Black Stonefly	All Month	E am	4-8 Black Stonefly Nymph
Light Cahill Mayfly (Very Important)	All Month	E to L pm	12-14 Light Cahill 12-14 Light Cahill Nymph
Sulphur Mayfly (Important)	All Month	L pm to Dark	14-18 Sulphur Comparadun; Light Cahill; Cream Variant 14-16 Sulphur Nymph or Emerger, Pheasant Tail
Golden Stonefly	Late	E am	4-8 Golden Stonefly Nymph
Brown & Slate Drakes	Late	L am to L pm	8-14 Adams, Blue Dun, or March Brown Parachutes 8-14 March Brown Nymph, Dark Hare's Ear, or Pheasant Tail
Green Drake Mayfly (Important)	Late	L am to L pm	8-10 Green Drake 8-10 Green Drake Nymph
Coffin Fly (Green Drake Spinner) (Awesome)		L pm to an hour after dark	8-10 Spent Wing or Parachute Coffin Fly
Midges	All Month	All Day	18-22 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa

Hot tip: Don't leave early. Go late and stay late. Carry a flashlight! Many times the trout won't rise until the sun starts going down and the bugs come out to find a mate.

'Website-of-the-Month': <http://www.randrflyfishing.com/articles/>
Check this: <http://www.randrflyfishing.com/2009/01/19/catch-more-trout-treat-your-fly-rod-as-if-it-were-a-gun/>

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 spring is as follows: **Tim McClure** (4/21); **Kathy Breithaupt** (4/28); **Ray Gentry** (5/5); **Gary Deal** (5/12); **Terry Rivers** (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: Eight (8) engineering firms have submitted proposals for prioritizing and estimating sewer repairs. Rabun TU is preparing a spreadsheet comparison of the proposals. The city has responded to recent funding opportunities brought about by the federal stimulus funds package. On April 17th Clayton made application to Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) for a \$2.5 million "sewer rehab project." Click <http://www.gefa.org/>

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

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.

The following short story appeared in the Miller County Liberal, Colquitt, GA <http://www.millercountyliberal.com/> and is reprinted here with permission of the author.

OLD MEN, MOUNTAINS, AND UNEXPECTED PLEASURE

by Bob Kornegay

It seemed like the last day of our heretofore successful fishing trip was going to be a washout. My trout-fishing partner and I left our Blairsville, Ga. motel at 6 a.m. The clouds hung low and dark, pregnant with rain promised by the morning's weather report. By 6:15, the sky opened, and the southern Appalachians were awash.

As we motored down U.S. 129 toward a favorite trout stream, the rain fell harder. The mountain peaks looming above us on either side of the twisting road disappeared, shrouded by sheets of descending water that cascaded in mini waterfalls down the rocky escarpments lining the highway.

I risked a sideways glance at my buddy (one best not shift his gaze away from a mountain highway too long, especially in the rain). He said nothing, but the disappointment in his eyes was clear.

"Creek's gonna be awfully muddy," I offered.

"No doubt," he replied. "High and fast, too."

In the mountains, a storm very quickly messes up the fishing. If it rained long, we knew it might be another 24 hours before the streams again became fishable.

"So, what do we do?" I asked.

"Well, we can always fish Lake Winnie," my friend said. "Maybe it'll slack off before we get there. We'll fish from the access dock and run for the truck if the bottom falls out. Be a waste of time to wade the creeks this morning. Whatcha think?"

"Might as well," I said, not enthusiastically.

Lake Winnie (properly Lake Winfield Scott) is a pretty little body of water just off a hairpin-curve and switchback-ride on Georgia Highway 180. The fishing there is easy if not always productive. We'd fished it before, always as a last resort. Now it seemed the only destination that made any sense.

The rain had indeed slackened by the time we arrived. We used our rain suits as cushions on the "lazy man's" bench attached to the U.S. Forest Service fishing pier. We cast baited lines into the lake and waited, both of us thinking the same thought. This was indeed lazy man's fishing, fit only for kids and old folks.

We sat for an hour, caught one small trout, and were just before leaving when two elderly gentlemen drove up, unloaded their gear and gingerly tottered down the bank.

"Got room?" one asked with the typical understated nasal twang of the mountain native.

"Plenty," my buddy said. "We're just leaving."

"Don't," the old man said. "Be bitin' any time now."

Call it prophetic or, if you're a skeptic, coincidence, but as if on cue, my ultralight rod bent sharply scant seconds later. I set the hook with a practiced wrist-flick and soon landed a hefty keeper-size rainbow. I cast a glance in the old man's direction. He only winked and nodded his balding head.

Long story short, my partner and I lingered there another two hours. The talkative old fellow and his equally ebullient buddy warmed up to us and began profusely and prolifically holding forth. As a bonus, the fish kept biting. My friend and I love fishing, and we're both suckers for old men with stories to tell. Here we had both at once. How could we possibly tear ourselves away?

Those two ancient anglers fished and gabbed like there was no tomorrow. We were treated to dozens of hilarious stories and an equal amount of mountain-folk anecdotes the likes of which we'd never heard. All lies, of course. Beautiful lies. Old-fisherman lies. Lies God not only forgives, but loves hearing as much as mere mortals do.

My partner and I each caught a limit of trout, stowed our gear, and tarried another half hour just to listen. Occasionally, we even got in a word or two ourselves. Finally, with handshakes all around and numerous invitations to stay and "set a spell longer," we took our leave. Behind us, the hilarious banter and good-natured BS continued unabated. The sun was peeking out now. The old codgers, it seemed, could chase away rain as well as the blues.

Walking up the trail toward our parked vehicle, my friend turned to me and said, "Bob, I reckon you know that's us in another 20 years or so."

I smiled wistfully.

"I hope so, Hoss. Lord, I do hope so."

As we drove away, the last remaining clouds parted, bathing two happy old men (and two happy old men in training) in glorious mountain sunshine.

Copyright 2009 by Bob Kornegay, All Rights Reserved.

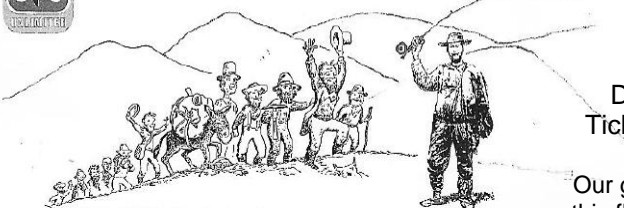
Editor's notes: Bob Kornegay's book of outdoor humor and nostalgia, *BUDDIES AND BOBTALES*, is available for \$22.00 postpaid. Mail check or money order for personalized copies to Bob Kornegay, P.O. Box 568, Blakely, GA 39823.

Passing it on!

Trout Tip

If you're new to trout fishing, try the Tallulah River on US Forest Service land upstream from Lake Burton. Flowing down from North Carolina, it has good road access, heavy stocking, scenery, and 3 USFS campgrounds. Many of the tributaries have excellent wild trout populations, too. High flows have that stream looking good!

<http://www.fs.fed.us/conf/rec/rogs/camping/tallcamp.htm>



Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Custom Fly Rod Raffle

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

Over \$600 Retail Value!!

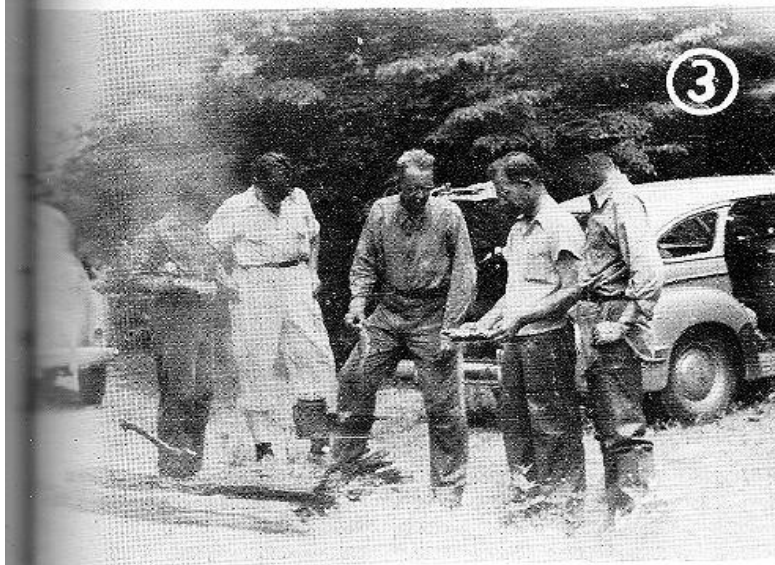
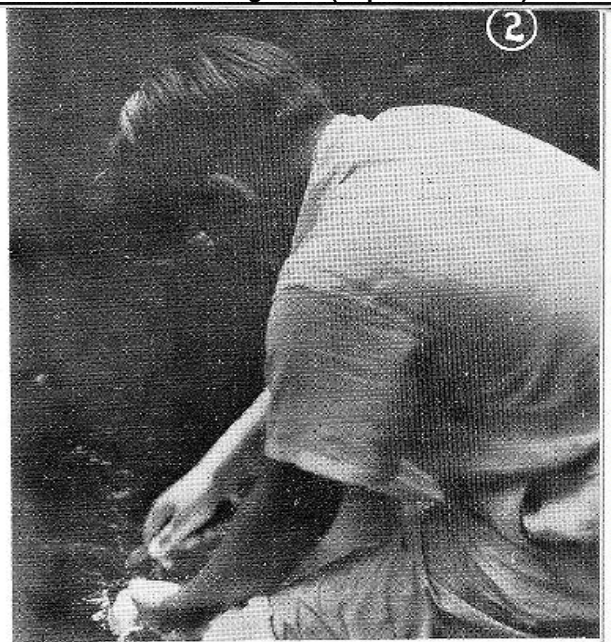
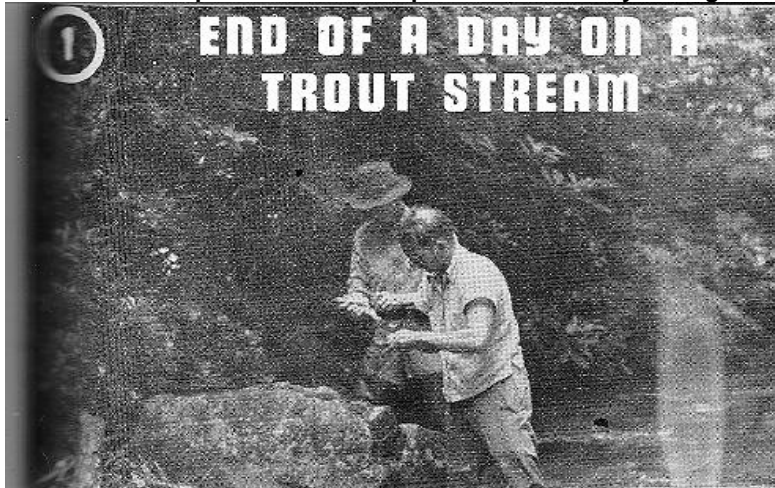
Drawing on July 21st at the **Annual Summer Family Picnic**

Tickets are \$3 each or 4 for \$10; Contact Pat Hopton for Tickets

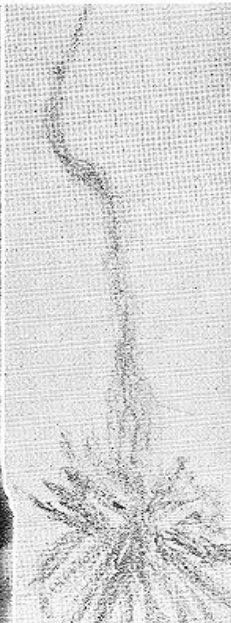
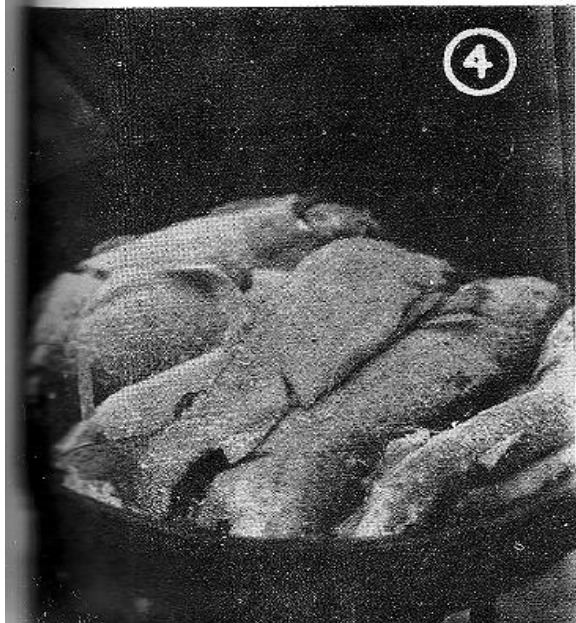
Ph 706 782 4978 E-mail scotts_creek58@yahoo.com

Our good friend Mack Martin of North Georgia Custom Rods has donated this fly rod to Rabun TU. <http://www.mackmartin.com/CustomRods.htm>

Long before there was a TU Chapter in GA, they "Passed it on" to Us!
The below picture article was published over 65 years ago in OUTDOOR GEORGIA magazine (September 1943).



1—First of all and most important, let us assume that you catch enough trout to enjoy such a day as this one. This party of five from Atlanta pulled in 16 speckled and rainbow trout for this occasion. First move is to clean the fish. Jack Foy (foreground), and Roscoe Carhart perform the cleaning operation. 2—Few dishes are more tasty than a platter of trout but most fishermen like to have a side-dish and so Frank Stocks peels some Irish potatoes. 3—A camp fire is quickly started. The fish were dipped in some corn meal, the coffee pot started to popping, the spuds sizzled and lunch was under way. This happy party includes (left to right): George Beutell, Frank Stocks, Russell Beutell, acting chef; Jack Foy, holding a platter of fish and Roscoe Carhart admiring his catch and the prospects for lunch. 4—This outdoor meal—yes, with hushpuppies—was prepared near one of the trout streams in the Chattahoochee National Forest area. The potatoes are doing well. The coffee is perking but you can't see the fish very well. Look below—there you can see those speckled and rainbow beauties sizzling and destined to appease five sharp appetites. It is this sort of thing that makes fishing the top outdoor sport in America.



Editor's notes: One April day in 1956, my good buddy Sonny and I had the "unexpected pleasure" of meeting Mr. Jack Foy and a trout-fishing buddy camped & cooking lunch near Low Gap Creek in White Co. Fresh fried trout, hushpuppies & 'taters are still my favorite camp meal today. The good times will live on when we pass it on to the next generation of conservationists! **Pass it on!**

Fishin' Reports from THE RIVER - The Good Times are Right Now! Passing it on!

Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2009

Subject: Fishin' trip

Thought I'd forward the latest fishing report from the Burrell's Ford region.

Wednesday (4/8). Fished above the river where the SC hatchery is (above East Fork), caught about 18 browns largest 13 inches most in the 8 to 10 inch range. Fished with spoon and spinner, too windy for me to fly fish. We did see a few fish hitting the top after what I suspect were caddis flies.

Thursday (4/9). Went to fish below Burrell's Ford could not believe the number of people on the river, at least 20 in the first mile downstream from bridge. Then spread out all the way to Big Bend Falls. If the water were smaller would have thought I was on the Tallulah. I guess tight times mean lots of camping and not to many trips out of town. Anyhow fishing was real slow. The prince nymph seemed to be working the best but they were also hitting the caddis on top.

Friday (4/10). Was going to fly fish above the SC hatchery stream (above East Fork), but when lightning started popping around us at breakfast we decided we better load up camp and get out. Soaked to the bone when we got back to the truck but that is always fun.

Probably ranks in the lower third of fishing trips over there for the fishing, but as always the company was good, the fire was warm and food plentiful. You just can't beat that.

Seems like the water level was up about 2 inches over last years grass so I guess 4 or 5 inches, that's probably a factor. Once again the number of people over there amazed me. Even ran into two groups of two all going to the gorge section. Besides Jack and me I've only seen 3 people in the gorge section - ever; and this is all during the week, not even a weekend.

I had a good experience with a boy who saw Jack catch a fish and came over to look at it. He said his dad was trying to catch fish with corn. Acted like he had never fished before and was awed by the 9 inch Brown. Gave him one of my favorite lures and a split shot told how to fish it. Happy as could be. Maybe 10 years from now he'll give me a fly or spinner that is working well that day. Anyhow that's the report. Hope you enjoyed.

From: Jason McVey - Suwanee, GA **Passing it on!**

A Flatlander's Dark - 30 by David Cannon - Idbis Creek, LLC (4/21/2009) www.CannonOutdoors.com **Passing it on!**

After almost a year of being away from my favorite river, an opportunity arose to head there this past Friday afternoon. The drive north consisted of a little conversation, a lot of bluegrass pickin' music and a rush of memories of past trips to this special place. Visions of rising fish from the first ever "hatch" I experienced seemed as fresh as the new spring growth seen everywhere right now, and there was much anticipation of experiencing one again on this day.

As has been the case for me for the last year or so now, I have a hard time deciding whether to fish or to shoot photos. I wish I would just grow another set of arms and be able to perform both, but I don't see that happening without coming in contact with some sort of radioactive material (maybe a trip to the Savannah River Site is in order?). So, after arriving at the river around 3:00 in the afternoon, Guru started, well, fishing, while I shot a few hundred photos of my favorite place. Watching him catch multiple rainbows and brook trout by skittering caddis patterns downstream, observing caddis and mayflies sporadically come off the water and fly to a nearby hemlock, and just getting to see normal water levels had me immediately satisfied before I even strung up the five-weight.

Of course, it finally got to me and the fly line was slid through the stripping guides and then the snakes and finally out of the tippy-top. Some 5X tippet was added and a parachute Adams was carefully tied with a securely cinched knot. Cast after cast was made for nearly two hours without a single fish rising. But still, I remained satisfied. For the first time ever I was perfectly fine not catching fish. What's happening to me? Am I growing personally? (I'm reminded of an episode of Seinfeld where George says, "Personal growth of any kind really annoys me.")

Then, just when I had come to terms with the fact that I wasn't going to catch a fish this evening, something changed. Tan caddis flies started flying upriver as if they had been summoned to some sort of important gathering of the caddis. A few mayflies - including some sort of huge light Cahill/Green Drake/bald eagle hybrid - started flying around. And, just like that, it was on.

The waning light urged me to switch to a big and visible Yellow Humpy dry fly and drop the parachute Adams off of it. Nothing like fishing two dries. In one long run, I landed six rainbows, one of which completely jumped out of the water to grab the Adams before it even hit the water!

A short hike up to a long, glassy stretch where I have caught a few decent browns in the past had me itching to "churn butter"

and hook one or two more. Guru and I watched as several brown trout consistently rose, including one who had been doing his squats and bicep curls for a while. After a few dozen casts to "big boy," he finally rose to the Adams. "OOOHHHH YESSS!!" I screamed.

Now, when you hook a fish that runs, like all trout do, you're usually okay as long as they don't run directly AT you. This creates slack and that's not good.

Well, big boy did exactly that.

Luckily, I stuck him good and felt confident that the hook wasn't going anywhere. And, that extra time cinching down my knots had me almost certain that this fish would take up temporary residence inside of my landing net. And, when he neared my feet, I really caught a glimpse of how large this fish was (somewhere between 18 and 20 inches with some good shoulders on him).

There was one variable in this equation, however, that would possibly jeopardize the whole operation - a slight rust on the bend of my hook. The current state of the economy and its subsequent effect on people who are trying to write for a living, combined with the fact that I hadn't trout fished in a while (the bass are on the bed... REPEAT... the bass are on the bed) led to an all-too-neglected fly box.

So, while continuing to YELL "OOOHHHH YESSSS!" over and over, I came up with a new dance move that helps remove slack line - the "Trout-Tackler-Two-Step" is sort of a backward stumble that adds some crazy-fast stripping with the line hand to try to take out the slack. It worked and the fish was on tight again... for about two seconds. In an instant the line was totally slack and my flies were above the water again.

Upon further inspection, the Adams had lost the business end of himself in the battle.

Heartbreaker.

But, an immediate roll-cast to the side resulted in another immediate rise by a smaller brown and he was quickly landed. Another few casts to another rising fish had him on and landed - a NICE 15-inch brown. And before dark, another two browns were landed on that same glassy stretch.

The second half of the hike back to the parking lot was in darkness save two flashlights from Guru and Dredger (who we met on the hike back) and was just as fun as the fishing. Stories, observations, fish counts, laughs and camaraderie were readily shared on that jaunt through the dark woods and another

memory was filed away for the next drive north, whenever that may be.

The Next Generation of Conservationists - Yep, they will "pass it on"!

Paul Diprima of the Coosa Valley TU Chapter submitted the following article to TIGHT LINES. <http://coosavalleytu.org/>

"Take a kid fishing" by Paul Diprima

Recently, long time friend Steve Kemp, asked if I would accompany him and his 13-year-old grandson to the mountains to introduce his grandson Justin to trout fishing. Justin had some skills as an angler, having fished for bass and bream in lakes, but had never experienced creek fishing in the mountains. Since we have had a lot of rain lately, I felt that our best shot at having a successful trip would require going to headwater streams.

Steve and I discussed the options and since Justin had to be at a ball game at five Saturday afternoon, we decided on Noontootla. We packed our gear and headed to "Three Forks" where the Appalachian Trail crosses the main road. I decided that we would have a great chance at brook trout on Stover Creek. Stover has been one of the primary work areas of the "Back-the-Brookie" program in Georgia. This stream has always had a healthy population of brookies, and Trout Unlimited along with the US Forest Service and the DNR have dedicated many man-hours to see to it that the stream becomes a showplace for brook trout.

Steve had wanted to introduce Justin to fly fishing as well as trout fishing. Knowing the stream as I do I felt that the terrain and vegetation would only frustrate a 13-year-old novice fly angler and that it was best to use spin tackle. Before we ever hit the water I showed Justin that his primary cast in the tight confines of the creek would be a simple flip cast. Just a few minutes later I felt it was time to walk the Appalachian Trail to the area upstream from the fish barrier.

After a quarter mile walk on the trail we descended to the creek in search of brookies. During our time on Stover Creek Justin hooked and missed 2 brook trout while I caught 3. Even though he didn't get one in, he said that he enjoyed creek fishing much more than bass fishing. Justin needed to be back in Rome by 5 pm for the ball game so I decided that we would try another stream that had a mix of brooks and browns. Frick Creek is smaller than Stover, but easier to fish. I coached Justin in places to cast and he caught a brown about 7 inches. In just a few minutes more he had another brown about 11 inches long. Time was running out so we decided to leave for the ball game. Knowing that Justin had trout fever now I told him that we would stop at the bridge and make a few more casts. I had him make his first cast to a hole upstream of the bridge that had a history of having big trout in it. Justin had hardly begun his retrieve when a 3-pound rainbow grabbed his Mepps spinner. He brought the big rainbow to the shore like a seasoned angler and his grand dad lifted it from the water. I think that now we have a future TU member and a confirmed case of trout fever.



and his third trout ever.

"A New Ugly Stick"

After lamenting over a broken rod, 8-year old Trey McFalls of Tiger and his fishing buddy took a Saturday afternoon road trip. They found a nice four-foot Ugly Stick at Reeves Hardware in Dillard and then took off to the Tallulah River to break it in. Using rainbow-colored Powerbait, Trey reeled in two nice stockers in 1.5 hours of fishing (photo). They now reside in his freezer and await the frying pan. The Ugly Stick will now receive a true test of its durability!



Editor's notes: Trey's fishing buddy is Rabunite Jeff Durniak.

"We have fish for dinner" by UGA's Fish Professor Jay Shelton
Pond fishing around here will be at its finest for the next three months - lots of hungry bass and eager bluegill. I never ask my 6-year-old daughter if she wants to go fishing, but I never say "no" when she asks me (reverse psychology). This past weekend she asked, so we headed to a local pond that had a severe weed problem during last summer's drought (it needed a follow-up visit). She was a little rusty, but it didn't take long for her to get back in the zone. She landed some nice ones (all on a catalpa flavored beetle spin), and insisted that we have fish for dinner. When she caught a larger than average bass I explained why we were keeping the smaller ones but should release her big one (she was fine with that). Once back home, she watched closely as I filleted... noting that the process of converting our harvest into dinner was "cool".



What's New Elsewhere?

GA-Legislature: The following is an excerpt from an article in The Clayton Tribune <http://theclaytontribune.com/>

Despite recent rainfall, drought still not over here by Jessi Stone (3/26/2009)

State Rep. Stephen Allison said he signed a resolution asking the federal government to approve the building of reservoirs in the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Sen. Jim Butterworth co-sponsored Senate Resolution 107, which was passed by the Senate in February.

"Basically, we were asking assistance with the water supply shortage," Allison said. "But they're not going to do it."

He said the main concern was the heavy use of water from the Chattahoochee by urban areas downstream of his district.

The resolution stated: "The building of reservoirs upstream from Lake Sidney Lanier is necessary to control water levels so that the people of Georgia and the surrounding states are ensured an adequate supply of water."

It also stated more than 5 million people depended on Lake Sidney Lanier and the Chattahoochee River for their water supply.

"People need to make do with what they have and continue to conserve water," said Pam Knox (assistant state climatologist). "We can't create more rain with laws."

Editor's notes: *The National Forest coldwater streams are precious resources to be protected and preserved for future generations. Not one single coldwater stream should ever be inundated so that residents of urban areas can water their lawns and wash their cars. Mandatory water conservation and water recycling are the proper actions.*

Georgia TU 2009 GA Assembly Legislative Wrap-up (4/11/2009):

2009 was a busy and challenging year under the Gold Dome. [Georgia Trout Unlimited \(GA TU\)](#) worked closely with our partners – [Georgia Wildlife Federation's \(GWF\) Camouflage Coalition](#), [Georgia Water Coalition \(GWC\)](#) and [Georgia Conservation Voter's Georgia Environmental Action Network \(GEAN\)](#). GA TU teams with GWF, GWC and GEAN on issues regarding coldwater conservation when our goals are aligned.

Our elected officials were faced with tough budget decisions in lean economic times. In addition to the budget, several bills were proposed concerning water quality and sportsmen's matters. For full details, including legislation text and votes, see the online [GA TU 2009 GA Assembly Legislative Wrap-up](#) on the GA TU Council website.

The TU Coldwater Fisheries Endowment at UGA:

Oconee River Chapter and the Coosa Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and individual members of the chapters have donated over \$45,000 to the Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fisheries Endowment at the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. The Endowment, managed by the University of Georgia Foundation provides scholarships for students with an interest in coldwater fisheries. This year there are two recipients of scholarships, one graduate and one undergraduate. **Josh Seehorn** was the graduate student and

Jason Payne is a junior and also received a scholarship. Jason was one of the TU interns last summer, working on the "Back-the-Brookie" projects. Both of the recipients are outstanding young men who will contribute to the future of trout fisheries.

Editor's notes: *Josh is a graduate of Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School and a member of the Oconee River TU Chapter. He is the son of Rabun TU member Terry Seehorn and the grandson of Rabun TU Member Monte Seehorn. Our congratulations to Josh*

Public Land Nationwide: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

On 3/20 the Senate passed 77-20 this package of legislation. The House of Representatives passed it with a vote of 285-140 on 3/25. On 3/30, President Barack Obama said, "Today I have signed into law H.R. 146, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. This landmark bill will protect millions of acres of Federal land as wilderness, protect more than 1,000 miles of

rivers through the National Wild and Scenic River System, and designate thousands of miles of trails for the National Trails System. It also will authorize the 26 million-acre National Landscape Conservation System within the Department of the Interior." To read more, click [HERE](#)

Environmental Reporters being laid off at GA Newspapers (4/21/2009):

"Stacy Shelton is taking a buy-out and will be leaving the AJC at the end of this month, after 12 years doing mostly environmental reporting. This summer, she will start a new job in communications with the US Fish & Wildlife Service in Atlanta. Not only will we greatly miss Stacy's coverage of our issues, but

also it is doubtful that she will be replaced; it seems that the environmental beat is no longer a priority for the AJC." "And, another great GA environmental news reporter, **Debbie Gilbert** (Gainesville Times), was laid off last week". Sally Bethea, Executive Director - Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

"Rock Snot" is found on the Holston, the Watauga, and other streams in east Tennessee.

Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) or "rock snot", is native to cold, high altitude waters of Europe and Asia. Unfortunately, it has been introduced to North America and has recently spread to many waters here. Didymo has been found in VT, NH, NY, VA, WV, **Tennessee**, CO, AR, WY, UT, ID, MT, WA, ND, SD AK, and BC. In its native habitat, didymo's growth is in balance with the surrounding ecosystem and it grows in small colonies. However, in non-native habitats, it grows into huge mats that can cover the width of the riverbed. Read more [HERE](#)

Threat: Although it is a single-celled organism, didymo grows in algae-covered stalks, often creating thick mats that cover the width of a river bed. These mats change the river substrate and other aquatic conditions, causing declines to invertebrate populations on which trout feed. The mats are so thick they crowd out native plants that normally provide shelter to

invertebrates and small fish. Didymo infested waters have lower abundances of adult trout and higher abundances of juvenile trout. As fish get older, they become hard pressed to find enough food in the didymo-altered ecosystem.

Management implications: Didymo is easily spread to uncontaminated waterways. If even one cell of didymo is transported to clean waters, it can become contaminated with the species. It is easily spread by infected recreational equipment. Felt-soled waders and shoes are especially problematic as it is difficult to remove the plant material from the felt. [Following our disinfection methods will prevent the spread of didymo.](#)

Editor's notes: Our thanks to Ralph Artigliere, President of Blue Ridge Mountain TU Chapter, for the "heads-up" on this concern.

Editor's notes: The following article dated 2/6/06 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/>

More Smiling Faces and Friendly Places

If you want to fish an area where the people are very friendly and just can't seem to do enough for you, try fishing in the south. This was my seventh trip and I can only say I have run into a handful of people that are like us on the east coast. No matter what business we went into or how much money we spent everyone was genuinely happy to serve us and thanked us profusely for coming into their place. We all know how we are treated here by most business they could really take a lesson from those people.

My trip started with a call to my dad's old friend Joe. Joe is from the Bronx; he and my dad grew up together and have known each other since they were kids, both are 85 now. It was my dad's birthday and I wanted to bring him down for a visit and do some fishing. Joe said "come on down" and so we did.

Before we left I went online and contacted the President of the local TU chapters got an update on fishing and after talking to Fred Marcinak about the Chattooga River I made up my mind that was my destination. This river was just written up in a fly fishing magazine and Fred told me where I should spend my time. He was right. For three days I would drive 60 miles up into the mountains that have the border of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina in them.

On the first day after getting lost about 3 times I found the area to fish. Like all the places I have fished down south from November until April I turned to my number one fly that my old best friend Terp showed me many years ago, a size 6 Woolly Bugger. This trip I even had one of his rods so I knew the bugger would work even better. As this water was fairly deep I used a sink tip to get into the zone.

After several hours of fishing catching all 3 species of trout and not seeing another angler I called it day and went back to Joe's for one of his favorite dishes, Veal and Peppers over pasta. Over dinner I told them how the fishing was and mentioned there was a local TU meeting and that I was going the next night. They both agreed to go as they both fished before the golden years caught up with them.

It warmed up to the low 50's the second day and some olives came off but only one fish rose so I stayed with what was working. I walked in a bit further this time and after several hours ran into 2 other fly fishermen, Jersey transplants. We spoke about some other rivers to fish but I gathered this was the

best one in the area. All fish caught on day number 2 were rainbows.

During the 3 days the brook trout were all about 14 inches, the rainbows were either 9 inches or about 12 and the one brown was about 10 inches.

That night for dinner I had fried Catfish and Hush Puppies, made fresh and fried right like they do in the south it's a wonderful meal and a real treat.

At the TU meeting the guest speaker was Fisheries Supervisor from Georgia, Jeffrey Durniak. Jeff discussed places to fish as well as techniques to have the best success. He also let us all know he was a fly fisherman and passed around his favorite flies. Jeff was from Jersey and made sure he teased the other Yankee fishermen in the room; he also gave me all his flies at the end of the night to make sure I had good fishing. He really drove home the point that the fish were on the bottom and spoke in detail about how much lead he used to get down to them, chiding the fellows who used dries or Tungsten bead nymph thinking they would entice a fish off the bottom of 40 degree water.

Day number 3 was another beautiful day that would go into the low 50's. As it was my last one I walked up as far as the trail went and fished down again with the same rig and fly only this time with lead shot pinched on. Jeff was right on; I caught double the amount of fish from the 2 previous days. On this day I ran into 3 anglers, this was on about two miles of water. None were doing well so I told them about the wonders of a woolly bugger and gave one away. In return I got what the locals call a Y2K fly; I can't wait to try them this spring. Something funny about the third guy I met that day; he had caught no fish and said in a disgusted tone that the only way to catch fish was to dredge the bottom. I nodded my head and smiled and moved on. After catching 2 more fish I reeled in looked back up river at the beauty and called it a day.

This river is now a Wild and Scenic and so has very good protection for the most part except from developers who when they build strip away all the trees and cause a new problem for this river, sediment.

Boaters are prohibited from floating the upper stretch of this river and are fighting to get onto this special regulation water. At the TU meeting I went to they discussed this and as always from what I could see TU members would lead the fight to stop them.

A river filled with trout and nothing but trees on each side with no road going along side of it is very much worth fighting for and the people in that room knew it.



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

“Could I really blame anyone in techno-heavy 2008 who longed to “get back to nature?” I’d do it more if I could. But I also thought about the Nantahala and Ocoee Rivers near the Chattooga, two once-wild rivers that are now essentially water parks, clogged with tourists looking for “wilderness adventures.” “

From *The Last Wild River*, by Bronwen Dickey, in *Oxford American*, Summer 2008 Click <http://www.oxfordamericanmag.com/>

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, 2008. 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 Chattooga North Fork and one-third of the comments were for unrestricted year-round, any water-level boating access on the Chattooga North Fork. The E-mailed comments can be read by clicking [HERE](#). The final decision will be released in 2009, click [HERE](#)

Letters To The Editor

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Subject: RE: TIGHT LINES March 2009 Newsletter

I was able to open the attachment. I am happy to be part of the Rabun County TU. All of my family is from Clayton and they have been telling me for some time to join the organization, I am glad I finally sent in the paperwork! Thanks again,

From: Monty English – Jefferson, GA

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Subject: RE: TIGHT LINES April 2009 Newsletter

Thanks for the newsletter. I have enjoyed reading them. Sincerely

From: Stephen Allison - District 8, GA House of Representatives:

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2009

Subject: RE: TIGHT LINES April 2009 Newsletter

My favorite line in the newsletter—March 28

“Opening Day for Seasonal Trout Streams in GA WAaaaahWHoooo!” ☺

From: Holly Demuth - Executive Director, WaysSouth www.WaysSouth.org

Sent: By US Postal, April 10, 2009

Please thank the Rabun Chapter for its donation of the great picture you brought for our auction. And please let the Rabunites know that Jeff Durniak represented them superbly with both humor and wisdom.

The Banquet Committee finally had its wrap-up meeting. In disbursing the profits we wanted to both honor the Rabunites’

support plus honor dear Tom. So please accept Mountain Bridge's donation to the Tom Landreth Memorial Fund.

From: Meta Armstrong – Banquet Chairperson, Mountain Bridge TU Chapter, Greenville, SC

Editors Notes: On 3/7 the Rabun TU Chapter donated a framed limited edition print titled “One for the Creel” by artist, angler and Rabun TU member Broderick Crawford. The print sold at silent auction for \$150. Click [HERE](#). Jeff presented the banquet program on the theme of mentoring youth and attracting younger members to TU. MBTUC included in their “thank you” note a \$500 donation to the Tom Landreth Memorial Fund.

Sent: By US Postal, April 21, 2009

Thank you for your recent contribution to Christ Church in memory of Martha Ella “Marty” Rodi. We are grateful for your effort to remember her in a special way, that also enables us to exercise our ministry in this community. With gratitude,

From: Ceci Duke, Rector – Christ Church, Norcross, GA

Editor's notes: Marty Rodi was the mother of Rabun TU member Maria Rodeghiero. Rabun TU's BOD authorized the memorial gift.

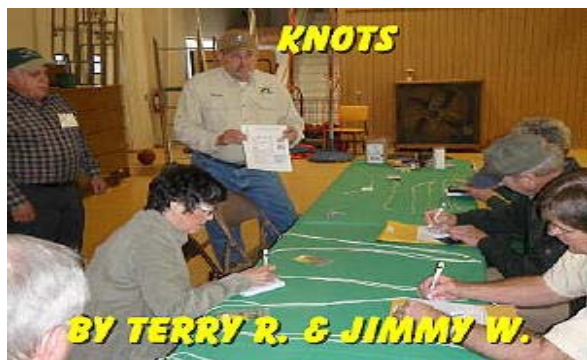
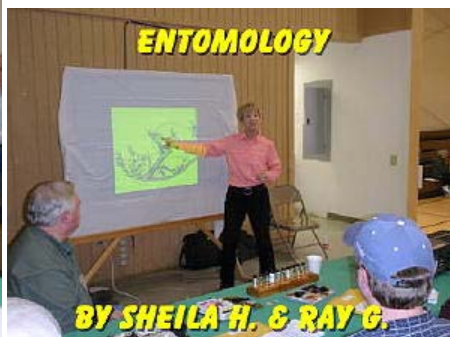
We appreciate the use of the Community Room for our meetings.



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

“BACKCASTING”

Apr 4 (Sat Morning) Rabunite 101 - Rabun TU's Half-Day Fly Fishing Seminar for Adults: “17 Rabunites and 2 GA Foothillers (Sheila & Dave Humphrey) met at the Rabun County Recreation Center to pass on their knowledge and love of fly fishing to 23 eager folks who had signed up for Rabunite 101. Information on knot tying, casting, equipment and entomology was covered during the 4-hour session, followed by lunch for all. This has become an annual event with great success. Thanks to all for lots of hard work and great support.” Charlie Breithaupt, Rabun TU Director of Education. **Passing it On!**



Apr 4 (Sat Evening) Oconee River TU Chapter Fundraiser in Athens, GA – 4 Rabunites attended. “We had a fantastic Spring Banquet. People had a very good time, weather was perfect, the band was great, food delicious, AND we made money. We grossed over \$8,000 and when all the bills are paid should end up with over \$6,000 to use for some of our education and conservation efforts this year” said Ken Calkin, President ORTUC. The Rabun Chapter donated a framed limited edition print titled “One for the Creel” by artist, angler and Rabun TU member Broderick Crawford. The print sold at live auction for \$150. Click [HERE](#)

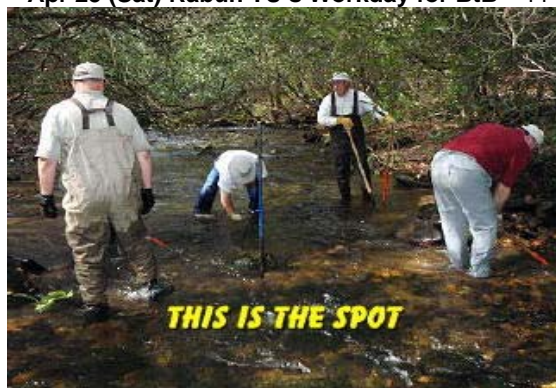
Apr 21 (Tues) Chapter Meeting was attended by 26 folks. Program: **David Cannon** presented a PowerPoint program titled “Photographing Your Fly Fishing Adventures.” David discussed some of the ins-and-outs of utilizing the different shooting programs on your SLR digital camera, as well as touching on composition, lighting and selecting your subject. During the presentation he displayed example photographs as illustration. He also discussed how to utilize the various modes on a pocket “point & shoot” camera. He discussed the ways editing programs can be used on a PC to upgrade an ordinary photo to an extraordinary photo and the sharing of a slide show on the Internet. David Cannon is the author of “Fly Fishing Georgia: A No Nonsense Guide to Top Waters”, available on Amazon.com. Click [HERE](#)

The Meeting raffle had 11 buckets with a knife & tool gift set, a 15 caddis fly selection, a 12 fly selection, a jar of local sourwood honey, a 4-drawer cabinet, a Okuma fly box, and much more. The raffle raised \$145 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.



Apr 18 (Sat) Tailwater TU's Smith Creek Workday with GA WRD – 2 Rabunites participated in stream habitat enhancements.

Apr 25 (Sat) Rabun TU's Workday for BtB – 11 Rabunites volunteers were lead by 4 fisheries professional (2 WRD & 2 USFS)





Click on:

ADDITIONAL HABITAT FOR GEORGIA'S OFFICIAL "STATE COLDWATER FISH" – NATIVE BROOK TROUT



Apr 28 (Tues) BOD Meeting, - 11 members attended. **Agenda items included:** **Recaps** - 2009 Rabunite 101 & Workday for BtB on North Fork Moccasin **Updates** - Stekoa Creek / Fix City Sewers, Custom Fly Rod Raffle, LWCF status of budget process, Amicolola Creek Purchase Donation, Camo Coalition/GA Wildlife Fed Donation, Tallulah River Road Repaving plus Paving Extension & the July 18th 1/2-Day Fly Fishing School at Tallulah Falls State Park **New Items** – Program for 2010 Rabun Rendezvous, BTB Water Sampling on 4 Rabun County streams, USFS scoping letter for trail relocations, request to sponsor a 4-H camper & projector for use at meeting programs. **Upcoming activities** – 5/1-5/3 Southeast Region TU Rally, (cont. next page) 5/2 Kids Fishing Event at Black Rock Mountain State Park, 5/9 Blue Ridge Mountain TU Chapter High Country Boil, 5/13-5/17 Camping & Fishing, 5/18 Annual Spring Family Cookout with Mentoring of Boy & Girl Scouts, 5/23 Workday - Betty Creek In-Stream Trimming/Clean-up, 5/26 BOD Meeting, 5/30 GA TU Council Meeting, 5/6 Mentoring - Annual Kids Fishing Event, 8 AM at Tallulah River, 6/7-6/12 the 6th Annual GEORGIA TROUT CAMP, 6/13 Nationwide TU River Clean-up Day & 6/16 Chapter Meeting Program **Updates:** Publicity, Treasury Report & Tom Landreth Memorial Fund Report

"Catchin' Corner" May Trouting Tips for Rabunites and Other Liars

1) Stay til "slap-dark." The bugs dance and the fish eat during that last 30-60 minutes before you simply can't see your fly on the water any more. Don't miss your chance of experiencing THE RIVER switch getting flipped to the "ON" position. You can double or triple your day's catch in that last 30 minutes!

2) If "traditional" does not work, try the unconventional. For example, THE RIVER's fish are hitting a few dead-drifted dries. However, in the last two weeks, we've had better luck exciting them by casting a #16 tan elk hair caddis downstream, skating it back upstream, and then letting it drift down. Then skate and drift some more. You'll be imitating those upstream flying, dipping, and egg-laying caddis. Some "rises" are smashes! Be flexible in your fishing methods and let the fish and their food guide you to success.

3) May means yellow. Try a big ole #12 or 14 yellow stimulator for your front fly. It's easy for you and the BIG browns to see at dark. Then drop your favorite little fly off the back on a 24-inch tippet. In mid-May, that dropper might be a #16 yellow stimulator to match all those little sally stoneflies. The sallies have helped to turn many switches "On" at THE RIVER (DH and upstream reaches), and others like Nantahala DH. Ever caught a dry fly double? Now's your chance.

Hope this trio of trouting tips helps ya'll to "grip and grin" more in May. Take a newbie with you. There is conservation strength in numbers, so go ahead and share the joy a bit with somebody you trust, somewhat, while still blindfolding them during your trips to and from location X. **Pass it on!**

Where? I don't believe I said.

Good luck. www.gofishgeorgia.com

THANK YOU

Sandy and Ralph Morgan (St. Marys, GA) for your cash donation to the Rabun TU Chapter.
Mountain Bridge TU Chapter (Greenville, SC) for your cash donation to the Tom Landreth Memorial Fund.

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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We wish speedy and complete recuperations for **Doug Mansfield**, **Larry Walker** and **Russell "Doc" Burken**.

Our congratulations to **Josh Seehorn** as recipient of a TU Coldwater Fisheries Endowment scholarship at UGA. Josh is the son of Rabun TU member **Terry Seehorn** and the grandson of Rabun TU Member **Monte Seehorn**.

Our condolences to **Maria Rodeghiero** on the recent passing of her mother Martha Ella "Marty" Rodi, 87, of Avondale Estates. Martha was born in Chicago, IL and married Albino Rodeghiero in 1944. She was one of the "Rosie-the-Riveters" who worked in the factories during WWII. The families moved to Atlanta, GA in 1951, shortened their name to Rodi and were owners of motorcycle dealerships in the area for many years.

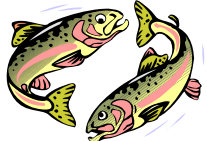
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thanks for re-upping: **Frank Patton, Bill Archer, Ray Kearns, Charles Mobley, Gene Roberts, Perry Thompson, Russ Tyre and Matt Calvin.**

It is time to renew your membership: **Gary Deal, Will Pendrey, Fritz Vinson, James Butler, David Cantrell, Raymond Taylor, Justin Tyson, Frank Allan, Cecil Beehler, David Jordan, Donald MacLeod, Steve Denman and Rick Hires.**

Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2009

President - Jimmy Whiten , PO BOX 881, TOCCOA GA 30577-1414	Ph 706 886 6546	E-mail jimmywhiten@nctv.com
Vice President (w/Notices in newspaper)– Larry Walker	Ph 706 244 4345	E-mail amosndixie@windstream.net
Treasurer (w/Newsletter & Meeting Raffles) - Doug Adams	Ph 706 746 2158	E-mail edadams1@windstream.net
Secretary (w/Communications) - Doug Mansfield	Ph 706 896 7445	E-mail mansfpd@windstream.net
Past President (w/Campouts) - Terry Rivers	Ph 706 782 7419	E-mail tlr1121@windstream.net
Director (w/Rod Raffle) - Pat Hopton	Ph 706 782 4978	E-mail scotts_creek58@yahoo.com
Director (w/Programs) - Bill Kelly	Ph 706 746 2104	E-mail bkjk1@windstream.net
Director (w/Website) - Kathy Breithaupt	Ph 706 782 6954	E-mail knc615@windstream.net
Director (w/Education) - Charlie Breithaupt	Ph 706 782 6954	E-mail knc615@windstream.net
Director Ray Gentry	Ph 404 680 6736	E-mail regentry@windstream.net
Director Ray Kearns	Ph 706 782 9913	E-mail raykearns@windstream.net
Director Jim Kidd	Ph 706 782 2474	E-mail jkidd@windstream.net



From the Fly Tying Desk of Jimmy Whiten

Worry - one of many angler's worst enemies, or at least I find this to be one of my enemies when I am on THE RIVER. After I am all alone on THE RIVER, I find myself thinking about work, will all of the work getting done as we planned, did any emergency calls come in that no one but me can handle and the list goes on and on.

I don't think any of us are immune to worry. Although some of us worry more than others, there are few who really enjoy worrying. Most of us don't choose to worry. We worry because we feel that we just can't help it. I think we all know that it is neither healthy nor productive to worry. We all know that worrying accomplishes very little. Worrying is at its worst when we react with our emotions rather than respond with our rational, objective thinking to our daily challenges (whew, easier said than done).

Maybe we would worry less if we could prioritize the things that cause us to worry, go ahead and deal with what we can change and try not to be anxious about the things we can't change (also easier said than done). Perhaps making more trips to THE RIVER with rod and vest (no creel necessary), more hikes in the woods or anything else you like to do that does not involve thinking.

If you have to worry about something, make sure it is worth worrying about (sill easier said than done).

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

RABUN CHAPTER of TROUT UNLIMITED

PO BOX 371

CLAYTON, GA 30525