



# TIGHT LINES July 2009 Newsletter of the

## Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited

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

*"It is easy to tell tourists from tarpon. Tarpon have a narrow, bony plate inside the mouth on the lower jaw. Tourists, especially in St. Petersburg, have both upper and lower plates."* Ed Zern (1947)

### **THE JULY MEETING is the ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC!**

**Kelly's Water Falls Park – Dillard, Tuesday, July 21st, 6:00 pm**

**Directions:** Travel north on US-441, on the north side of Dillard turn right at the traffic light on GA-246, go about 1.7 miles, turn right on Wayfarer Lane, then go 1/4 mile to the end of the gravel road.

**The Chapter will provide the soft drinks, the fried chicken, plates, etc.**

**Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish, veggies, salad, chips, or a desert.**

The **Custom Fly Rod Raffle** winner will be drawn. There will not be a meeting raffle at the Family Picnic.

*"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 American Angler, Summer 2004

### **"FORWARD CASTING" Important Dates – See you there!**

**July 18 (Sat) 1/2-Day Fly Fishing Seminar** (a.k.a. Alternate Rabunite 101) at Tallulah Falls State Park Starts 8:30 AM; \$20: **Call the park for reservations:** 706 754 7970; Rabunite volunteers needed to help. **Passing it on.**

**July 21 (Tues) Family Picnic,** 6 PM, Kelly's Water Falls Park (see box above for details)

**July 28 (Tues) BOD Meeting** 6:30 PM, Community Bank and Trust

**Aug 18 (Tues) Chapter Meeting,** 6:30 PM, Community Bank and Trust;  
**Program** Roger Caylor, owner of Caylor Custom Flies <http://caylorcustomflies.com:80/> (a small fly-tying company that specializes in fly patterns which imitate aquatic insects indigenous to the Southern Appalachian Mountains as well as traditional Smoky Mountain 'fly hooks'). Some topics for his presentation: local fly patterns and what makes them good, fly tying tips, his thoughts on size vs. color when choosing a fly.

**Aug 18 –22 (Tues-Sat) Trout Unlimited's 50th Anniversary Celebration,** Traverse City, MI. For details, click [HERE](#)

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

**2010 Rabun Rendezvous - Saturday, Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Program:** David Cannon <http://www.cannonoutdoors.com/>

**"Experiences of an Outdoors Writer"**

*He will share stories and pictures from his experiences researching for his book.*

### **FLY OF THE MONTH**

by Terry Rivers



### **POLY-WING TRICO SPINNER**

TRICOS ARE FOUND IN SLOW WATER, SO DRESS WINGS WITH FLOATANT AND USE AT LEAST 7X TIPPET. THE LIGHT GREEN STEM HACKLE REPRESENTS THE FEMALE TRICO, SO TIE SOME WITH BLACK STEMS OR DUN STEMS THAT REPRESENT THE MALE. TROUT ARE SOMETIMES PICKY WHEN IT COMES TO TRICOS.

**HOOK:** TMC 100 18-20

**THREAD:** BLACK

**TAIL:** DARK DUN HACKLE FIBERS OR BETTS TAILING FIBERS

**BODY:** BLACK THREAD RIBBED WITH LIGHT GREEN HACKLE STEM

**THORAX:** BLACK SUPERFINE DUBBING

**WING:** LIGHT GRAY POLY YARN TIED FLAT TO REST ON WATER SURFACE

### **PASSING IT ON!**

*"Can you remember the first fly you tied? Can you remember the first fish you caught on a fly? Can you remember the stream? The time of year? Who taught you to fly fish? To tie a fly? Most of us can answer these questions immediately. The mind has a special place for fly fishing things, where recall is immediate and memory perfect. We never forget. ... If you remember, so will others. Go out and teach someone to tie their first fly. Teach a youngster, or a not so youngster, how to work a fly rod. Introduce him or her to the basics of the sport you care so much about. Become a permanent part of their memories."*

By Dennis G. Bitton, "Take a Break" in The Flyfisher, Summer 1984

## July Hatches

<b>The Bugs</b>	<b>Time of Month</b>	<b>Time of Day</b>	<b>Suggested Flies</b>
None at all	Can happen any time on any day		Dredging Nymphs: 12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, PT
Brown Stonefly	All Month	Early to Mid AM	10-14 Brown Stimulator 10-12 Brown Stonefly Nymph
Golden Stonefly	All Month	Early AM	8-12 Ginger Stimulator 6-10 Golden Stonefly Nymph
Light Cahill Mayfly	All Month	E to L pm	12-14 Light Cahill 12-14 Light Cahill Nymph
Trico Mayfly Trico Spinner Fall	Early	Mid AM Late PM	20 Parachute Trico 20-22 Poly Wing Black Spinner
Midges	All Month	All Day	18-22 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa
Terrestrials – Ants, Beetles, Crickets, Inch-Worms, Hoppers, Etc (Important)			Various Times & Sizes

### 'Websites-of-the-Month':

<http://www.fs.fed.us/conf/welcome.htm> ; <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/> & <http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/>  
The Forest Service has recently revised and upgraded their websites in GA & SC.

## 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

As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Chattooga Conservancy will takeover "Driving for Trout."

For the last 28 months, twenty (20) members of Rabun TU volunteered their time and vehicle expenses to drive the weekly Stekoa Creek monitoring water samples to the certified lab in Jefferson, GA (132 mile round trip). The samples were collected weekly by trained employees of the Chattooga Conservancy and transferred (by a chain-of-custody procedure) to a TU volunteer.

#### A BIG "Thank You" to the Rabun TU "Driving for Trout" team of volunteers:

Doug Adams, Eedee Adams, Travis Barnes, Charlie Breithaupt, Kathy Breithaupt, Gary Deal, Ray Gentry, Russell Johnson, Ray Kearns, Bill Kelly, June Landreth, Tom Landreth, Doug Mansfield, Tom Matthews, Tim McClure, Lea Richmond, Terry Rivers, Fritz Vinson, Larry Walker and Jimmy Whiten.

National TU values donated time @ \$18.04/hour and donated traveled @ \$0.485/mile.

Therefore each "Driving for Trout" trip was valued as a donation of \$118.

**The total value of "Driving for Trout" donated by the 20 volunteer members of Rabun TU is \$13,334.**

**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](mailto:edadams1@windstream.net). All donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501(c) 3 non-profit) are tax deductible.

LAST CHANCE – Winner will be drawn at the 7/21 picnic.

### Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

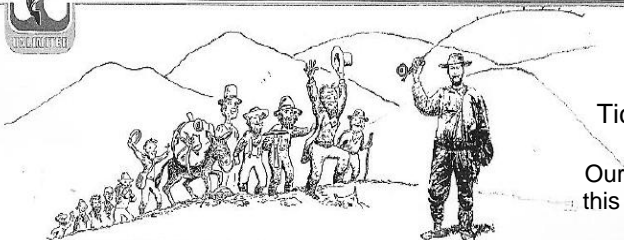
#### Custom Fly Rod Raffle

**Winston Blx, 9 ft, 4 wt, 4 pc, Boron/Graphite  
Over \$600 Retail Value!!**

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

Ph 706 782 4978 E-mail [scotts\\_creek58@yahoo.com](mailto: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>



## What's New Elsewhere?

**USFS: TOM TIDWELL NAMED NEW CHIEF FOR U.S. FOREST SERVICE** WASHINGTON (6/17/2009) Chief Tidwell brings 32 Years of experience working the Forest Service in a variety of positions. He began his Forest Service career on the Boise National Forest, and has since worked in eight different national forests, across three regions. He has worked at all levels of the agency in a variety of positions, including District Ranger, Forest Supervisor, and Legislative Affairs specialist in the Washington Office. To read more, click [HERE](#)

**Watershed management and climate change science will become top priorities for national forest management**, according to newly designated U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. To read a 6/18 interview with Chief Tidwell, click [HERE](#)

**GA-DNR: Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites Announce Restructuring** ATLANTA, (5/27/2009) The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, reeling from a 39 percent budget cut, announced a series of "heart-wrenching" moves this week designed to deal with those reductions as well as a 24 percent drop in revenue.

- > Reducing services and access at five state parks.
- > Reducing operational days and/or pursuing community support at 12 state historic sites.
- > Eliminating 12% of the workforce and implementing furloughs.
- > Increasing fees for accommodations, recreational activities, interpretive programs and parking.
- > Pursuing alternative operation of lodges and golf courses.
- > Limiting swimming pool operations.

DNR Commissioner Chris Clark said, "We are exploring every avenue to manage budget reductions and revenue shortfalls, to properly care for our state parks and historic sites, and to minimize the impact on Georgia citizens and communities." The reorganization enables the agency to uphold its mission of protecting Georgia's natural and cultural resources while also providing opportunities for recreation and education. The DNR is aggressively exploring ways for state parks, historic sites, golf courses and lodges to become more self-sustaining, while exploring opportunities for private operations of lodges and golf courses. The Department of Natural Resources operates 48 state parks and 15 state historic sites. A wide range of overnight accommodations, outdoor activities, historical programs and

group facilities draw 11 million visitors each year. To read more, click [HERE](#)

**Obama's nominee to direct Forest Service withdraws**, WASHINGTON (6/6/2009) -- The Obama administration's pick to be the new agriculture undersecretary in charge of the U.S. Forest Service has withdrawn his nomination, a White House spokesman says. Homer Lee Wilkes, the Mississippi state conservationist, was nominated on May 5 as Undersecretary of Agriculture for natural resources and environment. He was the first black nominee for the post. The position would have put Wilkes, a 28-year veteran of the Natural Resources and Conservation Service, in charge of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Resource Conservation Service. The White House never sent his nomination to the Senate. Mark Rey, a former timber industry lobbyist, held the undersecretary job during the Bush administration. Rey had tried to remake Forest Service policy to increase logging but he was largely thwarted by federal court rulings. To read more, click [HERE](#)

**GA-WRD: Wildlife Management Areas** - Georgia has more than 90 wildlife management areas (WMA) throughout the state, and there is one within an hour's drive of every Georgian. To view available maps of Georgia's WMAs, click [HERE](#).

**GA- WRD: Web Site Offers First Complete Look at Georgia's Freshwater Fishes** SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. (5/26/2009) This is no fish tale: A new Georgia Museum of Natural History Web site offers the most complete look at Georgia fishes, what they are and where they're found. "There has never been anything this comprehensive," said Brett Albanese, a senior aquatic zoologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Behind the lists, photographs and distribution maps are thousands of hours spent studying records, sampling streams and inspecting fish preserved in jars. Results include a Fishes of Georgia Atlas database that features more than 159,000 fish records from 19,028 collections, and an easy-to-use Web site that documents the state's deep lineup of freshwater fish. A 1997 publication reported 219 native freshwater fishes for Georgia. Through the atlas project, that total now stands at 265, placing Georgia among the top three U.S. states for freshwater fish diversity. Click <http://fishesofgeorgia.uga.edu/>

### "Catchin' Corner" July Troutng Tips

**Find cold water!** Buy a stream thermometer and use it to locate water temps of 66F or less, where you'll find hungry trout. Such water will be small and high up the mountain (the headwater streams) or below a big dam that stores "winter water" (Buford or Blue Ridge). The Smokies have an extra thousand feet of elevation, thus more cold water within a couple-hour drive.

**Be stealthy.** Streams are low and fish are spooky as they try to avoid predators. Use camo, stealth, and light leaders to sneak up on fish. Instead of a traditional, bright strike indicator, use your dry fly as one. Just shorten your leader to the dry, so you can cast this rig. David Cannon says this works well on Dukes! A #14 tan caddis or yellow stimulator is a buoyant, sneaky indicator for your sunken ant, on 6X tippet 5 feet below the dry.

**Think "bugs" instead of flies.** The spring hatches are over and aquatic food is scarce. The groceries are now mainly terrestrials. Our favorite is a #16 black fur ant, sunk deep behind a small split shot, of course! Other good patterns: small yellow stimulator, small adams or humpy, royal coachman trude, Japanese beetle, yellow jacket.

**Fish right after a big rain.** A big summer storm is like a dropping a refrigerator full of groceries on top of trout. The "air conditioning and vittles" turn lethargic summer fish on. Just use flies or lures big enough for fish to see in muddy water.

**Switch species!** Why is everyone hung up on trout? Don't quit fishing in summer. Instead, try a carp or a gar or a farm pond largemouth bass, something big that fights hard in hot water! The lower Chattooga's redeye bass and redbreasts are also beautifully colored, hard-fighting and fun, and will give a Rabunite some great "dark-thirty" action on top, right thru summer. The wet-wading alone is refreshing. Try river accesses between Hwy 28 and Tugalo Lake. Just be safe by bringing a friend, bug spray, and two flashlights. If you like to eat fish, drop some worms in a deep hole at dark and fillet some of those river bullheads.

**Go West!** Create a foursome, make a plan, and take a trip to CO, MT, ID, or WY for some lifetime memories this summer. For tips, see October 2008 TIGHT LINES; click [HERE](#). For travel help, click [http://clarkhoward.com/travel/atlanta\\_travel\\_deals.html](http://clarkhoward.com/travel/atlanta_travel_deals.html)

Tips shared by Rabunite Jeff Durniak

and is reprinted here with permission of the author.  
3<sup>rd</sup> in a series of Bob Kornegay short stories about trout fishing in North Georgia

## BROTHER TROUT: MY KINDRED SPIRIT

By BOB KORNEGAY

Certain fishes I do not particularly care for. I harbor no affection, for example, for an ugly old bowfin that makes me think he's a trophy largemouth until I see him jump and reveal himself for the first time. I don't feel the least bit warmhearted toward tiny, three-finger bluegills that dash out and steal my bait from big, thick-bodied shellcrackers or other intended piscatorial targets. I hate carp. Nothing like carp for ruining good fish ponds.

Then there's the trout. I never met a trout, large or small, I didn't like.

I like trout because the two of us, the trout and I, are kindred spirits, brothers in a way. We are utterly compatible, somehow made for each other.

The trout thrives in the cold clean waters of mountain creeks and rivers, clear streams flowing through remote corners of a natural world yet untainted. Put him almost anywhere else, he dies, adamantly refusing to live in too-hot, too-ugly places. Likewise, a little bit of me dies, too, each time I break the sensuous, icy embrace of beautiful lovers with beautiful names like Snowbird, Nantahala, Toccoa, or Tallulah.

Brother trout shuns the wild, swift water and the unseen perils beneath its surface. He much prefers the quiet pools and gentle riffles downstream of creek-bed boulders, fallen trees, and river bends. His joy over such welcome sanctuaries is doubtless akin to mine when I by good fortune exit the interstate to creep along some "lost" highway where the drive is serene and the maddening rush nonexistent. For us, the fast lane is only a means to an end, a route from one quiet place to another.

The trout is often thought of by those who do not know him as a "gentleman's fish." Not quite true. Instead, it is the trout himself who is the gentleman. None but a gentleman will willingly rise to the hand-tied Royal Coachman fly presented by some tweed-clad, pipe-smoking purist, then later emerge from hiding to graciously strike my own poorly presented Rooster Tail spinner. Nor is he too proud to gobble up the red wigglers and crickets of the "lowly" bait fisherman, especially those of a barefoot mountain lad or lass still innocent of the ways of grownups and invading flatlanders.

Lying quietly, patiently, in his placid pool, the trout fits perfectly into his pristine surroundings. He rests silently above the gravel

streambed, not stirring until hunger or danger demands action. He somehow imparts this same lifestyle upon those who seek him out on his own terms.

Trout fishing often lulls me into my own long, intermittent periods of inactivity. These are times to unashamedly lay my rod aside and relax atop some streamside outcropping in the sun-dappled shade. I know full well there's a trout in the deep, dark water below, but, for a time, catching him is quite unimportant. Better now, like the trout, to just lie quietly and look and listen as the creek and the world pass inexorably by.

We are not overly ambitious, this high-country fish and I. Nor are we slovenly idlers. We seldom seek or attempt to create opportunity, but prefer to lie in wait for opportunity to present itself. We watch and remain ready. Call us cautious conservatives. We'll never make headlines. On the other hand, the unobtrusive trout is not likely to be gobbled up by something bigger, faster, and more aggressive, and Bob Kornegay will never die of a heart attack in the midst of some corporate boardroom battle.

The trout and I did not just meet by chance and choose to be kinsmen. Nature, I think, made that decision for both of us. Along with all else we have in common, I have been endowed with an inborn urge to pursue him and he with a like need to elude and escape the likes of me.

In this, the age-old primordial contest between worthy fish and unworthy angler, the trout is not at all my equal. He is by far my better. He is major league while I am strictly second-string sandlot. I fail at the game so often there is little triumphal gloating on those rarest of occasions when my hook strikes home. Even then, I win only because he allows it.

Why? Well, I told you earlier. The trout is a gentleman. I can seldom say that about myself.

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**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.

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

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

In April 2005, the Washington Office of the USDA Forest Service issued a [decision](#) on an appeal by American Whitewater of the Sumter National Forest's [Revised Land and Resource Management Plan](#) (Forest Plan). The Forest Plan, issued in January 2004, continued a restriction on boating in the upper reaches of the Chattooga River (approximately 20 miles of the total of 57 miles) that has been in place since 1976. In its appeal, American Whitewater was concerned that boating was unfairly excluded and stated that the Forest Plan should be changed to allow "year-round access for self-guided groups of non-commercial, non-motorized canoeists and kayakers" to float the river.

The decision on the appeal issued by the Washington Office did not change the management of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River but directed the Southern Regional Office and the Sumter National Forest to do additional work, specifically to conduct an appropriate visitor use capacity analysis to collect information for reassessing the decision and to involve affected and interested parties.

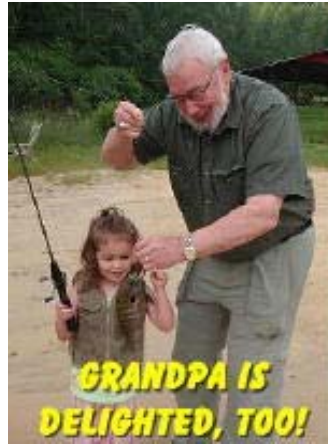
The draft EA public comment period closed on August 18, 2008. Almost 3000 public comments on the draft EA were received. Two-thirds of the comments called for protecting the values of solitude and remoteness of the Chattooga North Fork and one-third of the comments were for unrestricted year-round, any water-level boating access on the Chattooga North Fork.

A final decision on recreation uses on the Chattooga North Fork has not been made. Any documents posted have been developed in response to or based on information in the pre-decisional Environmental Assessment. When a final decision is announced, the public will be notified and any new documents will be posted here <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/>.

Fishing Reports – Passing it on!

Avril Adams, 5-year old "Stream Explorer" member of Rabun TU, goes fishing with Grandpa.





PASSING IT ON !



Rose is the daughter of Jay Shelton, UGA's Fish Professor and member of Oconee River TU Chapter. Rose was also in the May '09 issue of TIGHT LINES (pg 6) with an earlier catch, click [HERE](#)

## Hemlock Help for Homeowners

### Dear North Georgia Homeowners,

Our native Eastern and Carolina Hemlocks are being attacked and killed by an invasive insect pest, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Hemlocks are found throughout north Georgia, and you may have them on your property. Almost all of these beautiful trees will die in the next few years unless action is taken soon. But good news – help is available!

**Save Georgia's Hemlocks**, a recently formed volunteer organization, is implementing a new "Hemlock Help for Homeowners" program with the goal of helping north Georgia property owners save as many of your Hemlocks as possible for the lowest possible cost.

**The program is being launched in Rabun County** and will be deployed across North Georgia on a county-by-county basis.

For more information on how we can help you save your trees, call the Hemlock Help Line at (706) 429-8010 or e-mail us at [markshearer@windstream.net](mailto:markshearer@windstream.net).

### What Can Be Done?

On private land, small trees can be treated with insecticide soap or horticultural oil topically, but these offer no residual protection. At present, the most reliable and cost-effective solution available to homeowners is chemical treatment by soil injection.

### A Campfire Story:

## The Search For Mystery River

As recalled by Doug Adams

### We Can Help on Private Land

As a service to our community, Save Georgia's Hemlocks is offering practical, effective measures through the "Hemlock Help for Homeowners" program that can help you save your trees. In each county where the program is implemented, the following services will be available.

> **Education** – Free Hemlock clinics and informational materials to increase awareness of the HWA problem and the reliable options for saving your Hemlocks.

> **DIY support** – Soil injectors for borrowing, information on purchasing treatment products, and hands-on training if you want to do the work yourself at the lowest possible cost.

> **Professional help** – A list of reputable companies that do the work in your area along with their average rates if you prefer to contract with a professional.

> **Information on call** – A network of individuals and organizations that have received specialized training to answer your phone calls, address your questions, will provide accurate up-to-date information, and offer advice for dealing with the Hemlock/HWA problem.

Contact:

### Save Georgia's Hemlocks

Mark and Donna Shearer

37 Woody Bend, Dahlonega, GA 30533

Hemlock Help Line: 706-429-8010

E-mail: [markshearer@windstream.net](mailto:markshearer@windstream.net)

I've always been a stream angler. I started my lifelong passion by fishing for horny-heads in the stream just a stone's throw from my house in Decatur Georgia. By the early 1950s my buddy Sonny and I were in pursuit of sunfish, warmouth, and catfish in Peachtree Creek, a motor scooter ride away.

In 1954, Sonny's older brother took him trout fishing in North Georgia. Then Sonny took me. My very first trout was about an eight inch long wild rainbow trout from way up in the headwaters of Dicks Creek in Lumpkin County. It was the most gorgeous fish I had ever seen. I was hooked.

On weekday afternoons after classes I would often go to Everett Roach's Sporting Goods in Buckhead just to eavesdrop on trout talk between Mr. Roach and the customers, many of who were members of the Atlanta Chapter of the Isaac Walton League. While I looked at the newest fiberglass fly rods, basic reels and American tied flies, I often overheard conversations about the nice rainbows caught the previous weekend in Coopers Creek, Jacks River, Conasauga River and Hazel Creek. But the talk that really captured my attention was about the huge brown trout in Mystery River.

Starting the first day of April 1955, opening day, Sonny and I spent almost every weekend in North Georgia trout streams. When the trout season closed in mid October, we longed for more trout fishing. Imagine, 5½ months with no trout fishing! By mid November we were suffering from trout fishing withdrawal.

We noticed on the back of our Georgia resident fishing license (cost of \$1.25) the following statement, that trout streams "are open to fishing from April 1st through October 15th, except the main channel of the Chattooga River in Rabun County, which is open the year round." So, I call the Georgia Game and Fish Commission in the State Capitol Building and ask to speak with a trout biologist. I asked him where to go to trout fish the Chattooga River and he suggested Burrell's Ford.

We began planned our first trip to the Chattooga. We loaded our gear into my 1937 Ford 4-door sedan and left Decatur at 3 AM the Friday morning after Thanksgiving, 1955. We arrived at the intersection of Warwoman Road and Highway 28 shortly after 6 AM. We parked across the road from a country store with a house next door. We waited almost an hour for a light to come on in the house and after another half hour we went up and knocked on the door.

A mountain man came to the door (Freddy Bower, whom I later came to know was an expert angler for big brown trout) and we asked for directions to Burrell's Ford. He asked, "You'uns got tire chains?" "Yes sir," I replied. He said, "Soon as you leave the pavement, you'uns put 'em on. It's 10 miles of bad road to Burrell's Ford." He proceeded to give us directions to the Highway 28 turnoff.

We turned onto the Glades Road and put on chains! we traveled past the school house and the mica mine, made the sharp right turn on to the Burrell's Ford Road after crossing the wooden Hedden Creek Bridge, went past Webb Short's cabin, forded Hedden Creek 3 times and crossed on a log bridge once, forded Ridley Branch, then through Carey Gap and made the long downgrade to THE RIVER.

We set up camp about a half mile above Burrell's Ford, across from what is now the parking lot on the Georgia side at the Burrell's Ford Bridge. When we looked at THE RIVER at the Camp Pool, it was a case of love at first sight. On that first trip we fished down only as far as the Black Hole and up as far as the Stove Pipe Hole where we caught stock rainbows and some beautiful wild brown trout. We left for home late Sunday

afternoon. We returned the week after Christmas and brought Russ Tyre and 3 other high school buddies.

During the next 3 years Sonny, Russ and I returned to THE RIVER at every opportunity. I finished college and started work with Lockheed. Sonny entered the Army to serve his compulsory 2-years. I continued to visit Everett Roach's Sporting Goods; the only trout fly shop in Atlanta.

Then on a trip to THE RIVER, I landed a 22-inch wild brown trout at daybreak on January 31, 1959. The next week I took the brown to Everett Roach to have it mounted (the only trout I ever killed to have mounted). He said, "Lets see it." I carefully unwrapped the wild brown. Mr. Roach looked at the unique markings of the Chattooga brown, the bright red spots surrounded by white halos located on the lateral line, the staggered row of red-haloed spots underneath the lateral line. He looked me in the eye and asked, "Where did you catch this brown?" I answered, "The Chattooga River." He said, "Well son, you finally found the Mystery River."

Since 1957 I have made 61 road trips to the Rocky Mountains trout streams. I have visited trout streams all the way up the East and West Coasts and into Canada. I have been all around the Great Lakes Region and I have fished in the Ozarks. I have experienced places where I could catch (on average) bigger trout, some places where I could catch more trout, and I have fished several rivers out West with beautiful backcountry and solitude (but fishable only 3 or 4 months of the year). However, in all my travels and the hundreds of streams I have visited, I have never experienced a river any prettier, more challenging to fly-fish, or one that I would rather call my "home river" than the Chattooga North Fork backcountry, and I'm able to fish it year round!

**Editor's notes:** *Eedee and I married in 1960 and we came to Rabun County on our honeymoon. We moved to Rabun County in 1965 to live closer to THE RIVER. In 1979, a fishing buddy Don Atkinson was invited for a weekend at a private trout club on the Nantahala River in NC and he was told to "bring a friend." I was that lucky friend. When we arrived, we discovered Everett Roach was also an invited guest the same weekend. I was delighted, as I had not seen Mr. Roach in almost 20 years. It gave me the opportunity to thank him for helping me learn the difference in "fishing for trout" and "trout fishing." For the next 20 years, Mr. Roach and I stayed in touch with annual "fishing update" notes at Christmas time. Everett Roach was an advocate of fly-fishing who was always willing to share his knowledge of the sport; he was much admired by fellow anglers and he was a true gentleman. He died in February 2003.*



Everett Roach in 1979

As an advocate of fly-fishing, he was "passing it on."

## Letters To and From The Rabunites

**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2009

**To:** A Letter to Georgia's Citizens:

Georgia is blessed with abundant natural beauty and a rich cultural heritage. Many of these amazing landscapes and historic

sites are part of our award-winning state parks system, with 63 properties from the mountains to the coast. During the last month, I've seen families hiking the highest waterfall on the East Coast. I've watched children paddle a kayak across a pristine



mountain lake. I've helped a retired couple park their RV beside a rolling river. I've seen my son touch his first snake as a park ranger explained. The list goes on and on.

Unfortunately, the economic crisis is hitting these special places. Because of declining revenues and budget cuts, the Department of Natural Resources recently announced significant operational changes, including reducing services at some state parks, cutting days of operation at 12 historic sites, layoffs and furloughs. If revenues continue to decline this summer due to the weakened economy, our facilities will be at even greater risk.

Georgia's state parks need your help. What can you do?

>Buy an annual ParkPass. These funds are used specifically for repairs and maintenance.

>Stay overnight. Our campgrounds, cottages and lodges offer affordable summer vacations.

>Book an event. Our facilities are great for family reunions, company retreats and other gatherings.

>Join your local chapter of Friends of Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites. The benefits are many, including free admission and discounts.

>Volunteer. Now more than ever, we need help with fund raising, maintenance, programming and other activities.

I take very seriously the role that state parks and historic sites play in our local communities. They offer outstanding outdoor recreation and they also stimulate the economy, particularly in rural areas. As we continue to evaluate operations during this difficult time, our emphasis will be on partnering with local communities, businesses and non-profits to keep these sites available to the public.

So come and visit. The dollars you spend go directly towards protecting our natural resources and preserving Georgia's state parks and historic sites for future generations.

**From:** Chris Clark, Commissioner - Georgia Department of Natural Resources [www.GeorgiaStateParks.org](http://www.GeorgiaStateParks.org)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2009

**Subject:** RE: TIGHT LINES June 2009 Newsletter

Thanks for the newsletter, it opened fine and I look forward to future mailings.

**From:** Dale Klug - Avery Creek Outfitter, Arden, NC

**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2009

**Subject:** RE: TIGHT LINES June 2009 Newsletter

I cannot find the updated info on the Chattooga that was posted on May 11, 2009. Can you help? Thanks,

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](mailto:edadams1@windstream.net)

### Warning - Look Before You Step



Recently Rabunite Pat Hopton encountered this big timber rattler on a hike into the backcountry of a river.

**Know Your Forest: 2<sup>nd</sup> in a series**

### History of the Andrew Pickens Ranger District

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/forest/about/aphist.shtml>

The Andrew Pickens Ranger District, Sumter National Forest, is situated in the mountains of northwest South Carolina. The district was the home of the Cherokee Indians. Several local place names and streams are named after Cherokee villages. These include the Chattooga, Chauga, Cheohee, Tugaloo,

**From:** Mike Williams – Atlanta, GA

**Editor's notes:** Click on:

[Upper Chattooga River Biological Evaluation](#)  
[Upper Chattooga River Biological Assessment](#)  
[North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office Letter](#)  
[South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office Letter](#)  
[US Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Assessment Letter](#)  
[US Fish and Wildlife Service Correction Letter](#)  
[Georgia Historic Preservation Concurrence Letter](#)  
[Comments Received August 18 - October 2, 2008](#)

**Sent:** Via US Postage on June 2, 2009

**To:** Stop I-3 Coalition:

The Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited has a strong mission to protect all coldwater fisheries. We see a direct connection between your mission and our stated goals.

We are hereby making a donation in the amount of \$250.00. I have attached a check (#1173) from the Georgia Council. Respectfully;

**From:** Ray Gentry, Treasurer - GA Council of Trout Unlimited

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 02, 2009

**Subject:** Re: TIGHT LINES June 2009 Newsletter

Please advise all Rabun TU folks that in addition to an usually large infestation of Copperheads, Rattlers, and Brown Recluse Spiders on Deep Creek, there are now numerous sightings of several large Black Panthers roaming the Deep Creek, Forney Creek and Hazel Creek areas of the Great Smoky.

The Park Rangers all agree, it is just a matter of time until a trout fisherperson is mauled or worse....Noland Creek habitat is probably the next area to be overrun by the BIG CATS. This is not a scare tactic just friendly advise to my Georgia brothers/sisters of the trout.

**From:** J. H. Duncan – Franklin, NC

**Editor's notes:** *By golly, you don't - - - well, - - you know.*

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



Toxaway, Keowee, Oconee, Tomassee, and Jocassee rivers or creeks.

By the mid-eighteenth century, white settlers in the piedmont began to encroach on the territory of the Cherokees. These settlers were predominantly of Scotch-Irish, German, and French Huguenot background. The British constructed forts on the western frontier to regulate trade with the Indians and protect white settlements.

White settlements were attacked by the Indians in the Cherokee War of 1759-1761. This resulted in the destruction of most of the Cherokee Villages on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District in 1760 by a British expedition. Some villages were rebuilt, but many Indians decided to move further west to avoid conflict with the whites. The villages were destroyed again in 1776 by Americans during the Revolutionary War when the Cherokees aligned themselves with the British. General Andrew Pickens was among those who destroyed these villages including Tomassee, which he later appropriated for the site of his own plantation. He ordered the construction of Oconee Station in 1792 as a military outpost to defend against future Indian attacks. A few Indians remained on the district into the 1800s, but most fled to settlements further west.

Bitter fighting in the backcountry during the Revolution retarded settlement of the Indian lands. By the 1790s whites were moving into the area and starting small farms. In 1798 this became part of the Pendleton District with a judicial seat in nearby Pendleton. Early settlements concentrated along the major rivers and creeks and often made use of the already cleared Indian fields. Farms were largely self-sufficient and few market crops were raised. Livestock were grazed on the surrounding forested mountains. Population growth was gradual until by the mid nineteenth century most good agricultural land was in use and less suitable slopes and areas along small creek bottoms were being cleared for cultivation.

The town of Walhalla was founded in the 1850s by the German Settlement Society. The Blue Ridge Railroad Company was chartered in 1852 to build a railroad to West Union near

Walhalla and extend it over the mountains to Georgia and Tennessee. Work was begun on the route, which passes through the Andrew Pickens District in 1853. Several large cuts, built up grades, and tunnels were constructed by different work crews. The largest tunnel was over one mile long on Stumphouse Mountain. A town of 1,500 people was constructed at Tunnel Hill in 1856 to accommodate the predominantly Irish railroad workers building the tunnel. The proposed railroad failed in 1859 for financial reasons and was never completed. It was built to West Union in 1860 and terminated at Walhalla in 1870.

The 1850s were also a time of extensive minerals exploration and mining on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District. Most mining was in search of gold. Old shafts, tunnels, and pits are found on the district. The most intensive mining was along Cheohee, Tomassee, and Cherokee Creeks.

Most of the district was logged of old growth timber in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. These privately owned lands were degraded by logging and frequent burning which prevented the return of productive timber stands. The General Pickens District began with land acquired in 1914 in what was called the Savannah Purchase Unit administered by the Nantahala National Forest. The land was purchased under the authority of the 1911 Weeks Act, which allowed the Forest Service to acquire forest land at the headwaters of navigable streams like the Savannah River to protect water quality and reduce flooding.

The district became part of the Sumter National Forest when it was established by presidential proclamation in 1936. The extensive cutover lands of the Whitewater River Lumber Company were acquired in the 1940s. Conservation work began immediately to restore the productivity and health of the forests. Many projects were accomplished by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s including the construction of campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and a fish hatchery. The district was reforested through the planting of trees and exclusion of uncontrolled fire.

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## "BACKCASTING"

**May 30 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting:** Blairsville, GA - 5 Rabunites attended. **The agenda included:** Call to Order, Introductions, Roll Call, Opening Remarks, Minutes of Previous Meeting, Treasurer's Report & Dream Trip check distribution. Old Business: Saving Private Brooks, Trout Camp, Amicalola River Tract /DNR, BTB, GA Wildlife Federation Funding for lobbying, & Southeastern Rally. New Business: Raffle Laws, 50th Anniversary, TU Accident Insurance, Chattahoochee River Tailwater Study, National Park Service – Chattahoochee River, CEI Report Form & Re-chartering update. Other new Business & Activity Announcements: 2009 Hogsed Youth Day (**PASSING IT ON!**); Commercial Boating on the Toccoa, & North GA TU Chapter Treasury.

**June 6 (Sat) Mentoring - Annual Kids Fishing Event** at Tallulah River with USFS & GA WRD - 11 Rabun TU members were there helping and 121 kids were fishing. Sponsors included the Forest Service, GA WRD, Hunter Funeral Home, Andy's Market, Reeves Hardware, Crestview Store, The Bait Place, Zoom Bait Co, Kevin Stowers, Nurses at Northeast GA Medical, Community B & T and the Rabun TU Chapter. Rabun TU donated \$300 for this event. **PASSING IT ON!**



Annual Kids Fishing Event at Tallulah River (continued)

AND THE CATCHING WAS VERY GOOD.





SO WERE THE HOD DOGS COOKED AND SERVED BY RABUNITES & THE FLIES TIED AND GIVEN TO KIDS BY TERRY.



SMOKEY BEAR & WOODSEY OWL CAME, 60 NAMES WERE DRAWN AND GIFTS WERE PASSED OUT TO THE LUCKY KIDS.



**June 7–12 (Sun–Fri) 6<sup>th</sup> Annual GA TROUT CAMP – 24 campers and 38 mentors (2 youth & 36 adult) including 15 Rabunites.**

Once Trout Camp is over I am always amazed at how well it went and how much we accomplished. I shouldn't be surprised because so many TU members willingly volunteered their time and talent to pass on their knowledge and love of fly-fishing to another generation. Our camp is truly a statewide effort as mentors from 10 of the 12 chapters in Georgia showed up to help out. Some mentors even took vacation from their jobs and stayed all week; you can't ask for more than that!!

This year's campers, 22 boys and 2 girls, seemed very focused on learning the skills of fly-fishing. While most didn't enjoy getting up very early and some occasionally misplaced their equipment, overall this group was very teachable and all left camp with far more knowledge, skill and interest than they had upon arrival. Each one having their own set of excellent equipment made them ready to continue with their new sport.

Once again, Georgia DNR and USFS personnel provided great support. Stream entomology at Smithgall Woods, visiting Burton Hatchery, stocking the Tallulah River, building structures on Ramey Creek and electro-shocking brook trout all added to the experience for the campers. Even in these tough economic times, these agencies still find a way to give us all the help we need. We couldn't do it without them.

On the last day of camp we gave the campers a survey to rate camp activities and offer suggestions and comments. By far the favorite activity was "fishing". No one commented that camp was "too long" and all gave a top rating to fishing on the Tallulah River ...thanks to very cooperative and hungry brown trout from the Burton Hatchery. One camper referred to camp as "an unforgettable experience" and another simply said, "trout camp is awesome." Several offered, "Foam is Home" as a quotable

quote, which shows they listened to Jimmy Harris' presentation on "Where the Fish Are." Some commented on how helpful the mentors were; one wanted to learn to filet trout and another's final quote was "Got Trout?" I know they all had a positive experience.

This year we had a couple of special guest at camp. Jack Betchick from the Delta Chapter in Memphis, TN spent a few days with us. The Tennessee Council has plans to start a camp and Jack was "scouting" our camp. He also jumped in and helped mentor some campers. Chris Wood, COO of TU, was with us one day and offered his knowledge to more than one camper as we worked on casting. Thanks to both for being with us.

Our camp is blessed with a great facility at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School and wonderful support from our sponsors. The Camp Committee will be making plans for next year and looking for ways to make Georgia Trout Camp 2010 even better. With Kathy spending months getting us organized we just have to take the fly and run with it. Plan on being a part of it; you'll be a better fisherman and will be giving back to the sport we all love. Charlie Breithaupt – Camp Director [knc615@windstream.net](mailto:knc615@windstream.net)

A BIG "Thank You" to our partners: the [USFS](#) and [GA DNR](#) .

Another BIG "Thank You" to our 16 sponsors:  
[Cabela's](#), [Unicoi Outfitters](#), [Bass Pro Shops](#),  
[Scientific Anglers](#), [Temple Fork Outfitters](#), [The Fish Hawk](#),  
[Atlanta Fly Fishing School](#), [R.L. Winston Rod Co.](#),  
[Targus Fly & Feather](#), [Costa Del Mar](#), [Fly Box Outfitters](#),  
[Frog Hair](#), [fishpond](#), [NGTO](#), [Georgia Women Flyfishers](#), and  
[Atlanta Fly Fishing Club](#) .



2009 GEORGIA TROUT CAMP - MAKIN' MEMORIES and PASSING IT ON!



PASSING IT ON !



PASSING IT ON !



PASSING IT ON !



PASSING IT ON !



PASSING IT ON !





**June 16 (Tues) Chapter Meeting** – 22 folks attended. **Program** – Robert Blankenship, program manager of Cherokee fisheries. The Cherokee Reservation offers 28 stream miles of public fishing @ \$7/day. The streams are stocked heavily up to 3 times/week for “put & take” fishing. The limit is 10 trout/day. There is also a 2.2 mile section that is C & R fly-fishing only trophy section that requires an additional permit @ \$20/year. The streams are stocked with brook, brown, rainbow, “golden” & “Donaldson” strain rainbow trout. For more info, E-mail [robeblan@nc-chokeee.com](mailto:robeblan@nc-chokeee.com) or write Cherokee Fish & Wildlife, Box 455, Cherokee, NC 28719

**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2009

**Subject:** RE: TIGHT LINES June 2009 - Supplement #2

Can't make the meeting but hate missing the program. I was there last month and we fished in the trophy section a couple of days. I thought you might enjoy a photo of nice trout caught there. It is not a great picture, taken with my buddy's cell phone. We called them Golden's but a local was calling them Palomino's. Not sure what Mr. Blankenship will say. Of course, they are very visible in the water. It was fun but a couple of folks were lacking in the social graces of stream etiquette.



**From:** Mitch Logan, a Rabunite – Lawrenceville, GA

**Editor's notes:** *This is NOT the golden trout native to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Through selective breeding with regularly marked rainbow trout, an all-gold, golden rainbow trout was developed. In 1963, this fish strain was popularized as the “West Virginia Centennial Golden Trout.” For more info, click [HERE](#).*

**The Meeting raffle** had 10 buckets with a knife gift set, 2 fly selections, a jar of local sourwood honey, a pair of Tom's used chest high waders, polarized glasses, a pack of 8 back issues of Tom's “Fly Tyer” magazine and much more. The raffle raised \$121 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.

**June 23 (Tues) BOD Meeting** – 10 members attended. Some agenda items included: **Recaps** – May GA TU Council Meeting, KFE Tallulah, 2009 GA TROUT CAMP, Custom Fly Rod Raffle. **Updates** – LWCF, 1/2-Day Fly Fishing Seminar at Tallulah Falls S.P., Quarterly BTB Water Sample, Stekoa Creek Monitoring, Sale of the projector. **New Business** – Nomination of Chapter Officers & Directors for 2010, Consider rotation (terms) for Chapter Directors, Mountaineer Festival booth, Donated #1 print from Crawford Art Gallery, Program for September meeting. **Upcoming** - July 21 Family Picnic, Aug 18 Chapter Meeting program will be Roger Caylor owner of Caylor Custom Flies. **Updates** - Publicity, Membership, Treasury Report

## THANK YOU RABUNITES

*“Thank you all for all your support, hard work, education, and dedication towards maintaining our privilege to fish here in the North GA Mountains. Furthermore, thanks for continuing to teach and educate these kids as well as others the art and enjoyment of fishing so they may enjoy the outdoors as you and I do.”*

Sincerely, David Vinson - Biological Science Technician, Chattooga River Ranger District, USFS (6/17/2009)

## THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

To: Broderick and Michele of **Crawford Art Gallery**, Clayton, GA <http://www.broderickcrawfordart.com/contact.htm> Broderick Crawford has done a really neat new and colorful print called "Trout". It is all the trout you could catch in America. They are donating print #1 framed to Rabun TU for use as a fundraiser.

To: June Landreth of **Tom Landreth Wolfork Gallery**, Rabun Gap, GA <http://tomlandreth.com/> for the donations and discounts.

To: Mack Martin of **North Georgia Custom Rods** <http://www.mackmartin.com/CustomRods.htm> who donated the raffle fly rod.

To: Lorraine Guelker with **Frank Amato Publications**, Portland, OR <http://www.amatobooks.com> for the discount on goods.

We appreciate the continued support of our conservation and youth education work.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thanks for re-upping: **Charles Cawthon, Ronald McKenney, John Patrick and Kyle Burrell.**

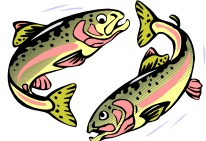
It is time to renew your membership: **Neil Anderson, Doug Hickman, Joe Kitchens, Walt Landreth, Thomas Stroud, Jimmy Whiten, Gary Deal, James Butler, David Cantrell, Raymond Taylor, Justin Tyson, Frank Allan, David Jordan and Donald MacLeod**

### Passing it on!

#### Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2009

<b>President - Jimmy Whiten</b> , PO BOX 881, TOCCOA GA 30577-1414	Ph 706 886 6546	E-mail <a href="mailto:jimmywhiten@nctv.com">jimmywhiten@nctv.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b> (w/Notices in newspaper)– <b>Larry Walker</b>	Ph 706 244 4345	E-mail <a href="mailto:amosndixie@windstream.net">amosndixie@windstream.net</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> (w/Newsletter & Meeting Raffles) - <b>Doug Adams</b>	Ph 706 746 2158	E-mail <a href="mailto:edadams1@windstream.net">edadams1@windstream.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b> (w/Communications) - <b>Doug Mansfield</b>	Ph 706 896 7445	E-mail <a href="mailto:mansfpd@windstream.net">mansfpd@windstream.net</a>
<b>Past President</b> (w/Campouts) - <b>Terry Rivers</b>	Ph 706 782 7419	E-mail <a href="mailto:tlr1121@windstream.net">tlr1121@windstream.net</a>
<b>Director</b> (w/Rod Raffle) - <b>Pat Hopton</b>	Ph 706 782 4978	E-mail <a href="mailto:scotts_creek58@yahoo.com">scotts_creek58@yahoo.com</a>
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<b>Director</b> <b>Jim Kidd</b>	Ph 706 782 2474	E-mail <a href="mailto:Jikidd@windstream.net">Jikidd@windstream.net</a>





### From the Fly Tying Desk of Jimmy Whiten

Well now we can slow down and relax, after hosting our picnic for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Fly Fishing 101, Trout Camp and of course lots of fishing (plenty of water in the streams.) With the biggest event being the Trout Camp.

With all of Kathy's hard work starting months ago and Charlie Breithaupt spearheading the Trout Camp and all of the volunteers from 10 chapters, help from DNR and USFS and all of the support from all of the sponsors and of course 22 boys and 2 girls from 12 to 15 years of age, IT HAD TO BE A BIG SUCCESS.

Trout Camp adds a new meaning to the word tired. I mean with all the casting, knot tying, fly tying, fishing classes and of course fishing, who couldn't help but be tired? I even noticed some of the kids were tired!

MY THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT HELPED WITH TROUT CAMP.

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](mailto: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 \$1.28 per newsletter mailed:

E-Mail [edadams1@windstream.net](mailto:edadams1@windstream.net)

RABUN CHAPTER of TROUT UNLIMITED

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