



TIGHT LINES October 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/>

"It is impossible to grow weary of a sport that is never the same on any two days of the year."
Theodore Gordon

RABUN TU CHAPTER'S **NEW** MEETING PLACE

NEW >NEW> New RE/MAX (old US Forest Service) Office, Clayton, GA **<NEW<NEW**
US 441S, just south of MAMA G's restaurant

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

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

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

"Just when I've caught a nice trout and feeling very proud of my fly fishing ability, my feet fly out from under me and there I sit, wet, flustered and properly humiliated by the Fly Fishing gods."
From "Taken Down a Notch or Two" by Jimmy Moore

"FORWARD CASTING" Important Dates – See you there!

Oct 7 – 11 (Wed – Sun) Fishing & Camping West Fork, Holcomb & Overflow Creeks with Camping at the Blackwell Place. Go out Warwoman Rd, turn left on Hale Ridge Rd (FS7). Continue on Hale Ridge Rd for about a mile past the intersection with Overflow Rd (FS86). Cross the small bridge over the head of Holcomb Creek, about 1/10 mile past bridge turn right on FS696. Go 50 yds to campsite on the left side of road. Contact person - Charlie Breithaupt (he buys the grub): Phone 706 782 6954, E-Mail knc615@windstream.net Reservation deadline - Oct 5th.

Oct 10 (Sat) Coosa Valley TU Chili Cookoff, Volunteers needed. Click [HERE](#)

Oct 20 (Tues) Chapter Meeting, 6:30 PM, New RE/MAX (old US Forest Service) Office Program: **Mike Crane & Dave Jensen**, USFS District Rangers - "Implementing the new Chattooga North Fork Recreation Management Plan"

Oct 21 (Tues) Board of Directors 6:30 PM, Community B & T

Nov 1(Sun) GA Fishing for Vets Day Click <http://www.flyfishingforvets.com/>

Nov 4 – 8 (Wed – Sun) Fishing & Camping at Long Bottom and with fishing in the Chattooga DH, backcountry, and front-country. Contact person - Larry Walker (he buys the grub): Ph 706 244 4345 E-mail amosndixie@windstream.net

Nov 17 (Tues) Chapter Meeting, 6:30 PM, New RE/MAX (old US Forest Service) Office Program: **Dr Tom Guest** "Take Care of Yourself"

Nov 21 (Sat) Gold Cup Challenge Click <http://www.goldrushtu.org/>

Nov 24 (Tues) Board of Directors 6:30 PM, Community B & T

2010 Rabun Rendezvous - Saturday, Jan 23rd

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



CASED CADDIS

IMITATES A DRIFTING CADDIS. WHEN THREATENED, CASED CADDIS WITHDRAW THEIR HEADS INTO THE CASE LIKE A TURTLE RETREATING INTO ITS SHELL. BUT WHEN DRIFTING THEY WILL STICK THEIR HEADS OUT OF THE CASE PERHAPS TO SEE WHERE THEY ARE GOING. OFTEN THE LAST THING THEY WANT TO SEE IS THE OPEN MOUTH OF A TROUT. SEE Y'ALL ON THE RIVER.

HOOK: 6-12/ 3X -6X LONG

HEAD: BLACK BEAD OR BLACK DUBBING

BODY: 3 TO 5 STRANDS PEACOCK HURL PALMERED WITH FURNACE OR BROWN HACKLE CLIPPED SHORT AND TIED DOWN WITH GOLD FINE WIRE, ALSO WEIGHT THIS HOOK WITH FINE LEAD WIRE.

THORAX: DUB IN SOME FINE GREY OR CREAM DUBBING BEHIND HEAD

"Some act and talk as though casting were the entire art of Fly-fishing, and grade an angler solely by the distance he can cover with his flies. This is a great mistake and pernicious in it's influence. Casting is but a method of placing a fly before the trout without alarming it, and within its reach. It is merely placing food before a guest. The selection of such food as will suit, and so serving it as to please a fastidious and fickle taste, still remain indispensably necessary to induce its acceptance."

From "Fly-Rods and Fly-Tackle" by Henry P. Wells, 1882

October Hatches

The Bugs	Time of Month	Time of Day	Suggested Flies
None at all	Can happen any time on any day		Dredging Nymphs: 12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, PT #14 Parachute Adams is always a good searching pattern
Small Dun Caddis	Early	Mid AM to Late PM	18 Brown Elk or Deer Hair Caddis 18 Grey Caddis Pupa
Speckled Grey-Brown Caddis	All Month	Late PM	14-16 Dark Elk Hair Caddis w/Yellow-Brown 14-16 Dun & Yellow Caddis Pupa
Large October Caddis (important)	All Month	Early AM and Late PM	8-10 Ginger Elk Hair; 12-14 Ginger Stimulator 8-10 Ginger Caddis Pupa
Blue Winged Olive & Blue Quill (important)	All Month	Late AM to Mid PM	16-18 BWO, Blue Quill or Adams Parachute 16-18 BWO nymph or Pheasant Tail
Midges	All Month	All Day	18-22 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa

'Websites-of-the-Month': <http://www.cannonoutdoors.com/index2.php>
<http://onlineathens.net/ads/adbase/1000618446.pdf>
<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/Fly-Fishing-Georgia/David-Cannon/e/9781892469205>
David Cannon will present the program for 2010 Rabun Rendezvous on Saturday, Jan 23rd
"Experiences of an Outdoors Writer"

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.

Stekoa Creel Water Quality Monitoring – A Trout Unlimited Partnership with the Chattooga Conservancy
 Trout Unlimited Funds Committed to the Stekoa Creek Monitoring Project - \$31,059 Total

To view 28 months of lab results for the Stekoa Creek Monitoring water samples, click [HERE](#)
 To view the spreadsheet showing the effects Stekoa has on the Wild & Scenic Chattooga, 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.

"Catchin' Corner" - Fall Troutng Tips

(October – December)

Hint- use light leaders with clear water; no fishing pressure; spawning browns.

Seasonal headwater streams (open through October 31st)

DH streams (opening on November 1st)

Tallulah, Chattooga North & West Forks – open year around

Find a mentor. Learn from a better angler Then...

Be a mentor. Pass it on!

Georgia Troutng Through The Seasons by Jeff Durniak, Northeast Region Fisheries Supervisor
 GA Wildlife Resources Division (www.gofishgeorgia.com)

What's New Elsewhere?

USFS-GA Tallulah River Road paving and bridge project (June 2009) Forest Service will pave the Tallulah River Road up to Coleman River and there are plans to replace 4 bridges. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) are cooperating agencies and have been involved in the planning and design for this project. The FHWA has provided specifications for this work and will provide Forest Highway funding. The Georgia Department of Transportation will perform contract administration and inspection. To read more, click [HERE](#)

USFS-SC (9/4/2009) Forest Service to allow more public comment on proposed Russell House pioneer farmstead. Click [HERE](#)

USFS-GA (9/10/09) A portion of the Walnut Fork Road is closed (Forest Service Road 155) for a 6 to 8 week period during a culvert replacement project. [See the map.](#)

WRD-GA Trout Fishing Information and Maps: [Click here](#) for county maps of trout streams, a listing of trout streams by county, and trout stocking information.

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.

5th in a series of Bob Kornegay short stories about North Georgia:

APPALACHIAN NIGHTFALL: A BLANKET FOR THE SOUL

by Bob Kornegay

Night falls hard in the Southern Appalachians. Up high, away from the towns, where hemlock and mountain laurel cling with tenacious foothold to sparse, spongy mountain soil, night can be as black as the bowels of a limestone cavern.

Tall trees with black, parasol-shaft trunks form an opened-umbrella canopy of leaves, needles, and branches that absorbs and digests the icy, weak light of far-away stars and the paltry, pitiful beams emanating from a hapless moon, no matter how full. Add clouds and a doused campfire and the Appalachian night becomes the beginning of beginning; the brief, yet interminable instant before God said, "Let there be light," or before the "bang" that split the "everything" and inflated a bulging, burgeoning universe. Your choice; the forest and the mountains do not care. Their night-blackness is old, timeless, unfeeling; just one more silent throb in the rhythmic pulse of ancient North American geologica.

The Chattahoochee, Cherokee, and Nantahala National Forests, which crown the state of Georgia and shoe the feet of East Tennessee and Western North Carolina, exhibit scant emotion as they shroud their realm with ebony cloaks following each and every spring and summer sunset. They leave emotions to the pitiful, hairless, two-legged organisms who dare intrude and walk or lie upon the decidedly carpeted floors after darkness falls. Those emotions adequately suffice, and each invasive Homo sapiens bares them all.

We FEAR, for example, the black bear's snuffle and snort, for there is only audio and no visual image: a proverbial thing going "bump" in the night. Did I hang my food high enough? Is he curious enough to enter this tent? Our COURAGE, on the other hand, is bolstered by the bruin's passing us by. We shall not be so afraid next time. With this realization, comes PRIDE.

ACCEPTANCE of night in the Southern highlands comes with the passage of time and with acclimation. The barely audible shriek of an owl-caught mouse mere feet from where we lie eventually becomes just one more note in the lilting mountain lullaby. The raccoon invisibly chasing crayfish in the nearby

stream still commands attention, but now there is no what-is-that-sit-up-all-night-and-listen response. Our ANGER at the skunk drawn to the cold leavings inside our coffee pot quickly dissipates. It is soon turned upon ourselves for neglectfully placing temptation in the polecat's path.

We are HAPPY, in time, to be where we are; we even LUST to return to experience this soul-searing mountain darkness again. There is PEACE here, no SADNESS but the thought that there are some down slope, in well-lit people-places, who plot to conquer the night and light the dark mountaintops with neon and incandescence.

Let these stay in Atlanta, Nashville, Raleigh. The rest of us shall descend from time to time to view the lesser nighttime lights of Hiawassee, Etowah, Franklin. Those will do, thank you.

Or maybe it's quite enough to move about randomly in the Appalachian dark, atop a domed, forested peak, and happen upon a clearing, a mountain meadow heretofore unseen in either sunlight or shadow. We pause there, in the middle of the glade, and look skyward. Icy, weak star shine? Weak no more. Now clean, strong, breathtaking. Paltry moonbeams? Not so pitiful dancing about one's feet in a mountain "pasture."

"Like lookin' up through a great big chimbley," a wise, toothless old mountain man once told me.

Yes indeed. An Appalachian nightfall cannot fail to thread dead-center through the gamut of human emotions. And you have read them all here, in this hopelessly inadequate chronicle.

But, no, wait a second. Not all, I think. Not quite. Did I mention I LOVE night in the Southern Appalachians?

And I'll take it straight, please. Just as it's been poured for nigh on a billion years.

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.

Fishing Report - "Taking the Treatment"

Rabunite Pat Hopton and **Doug Adams** have returned after a 17-day road trip West of Hiawassee. It was a September camping and trout fishing trip with 8 days of fishing in Wyoming and 5 days of fishing in Colorado. Doug's first road trip to the Rockies was in 1957. He took Pat on his first in 1987. Obviously they both were infected with Rocky Mountain Fever on their very first trips. The Fever is an incurable affliction. The only relief is to return as frequently as possible to take "a treatment" and hope the treatment will suffice to suppress The Fever through the long winter months. Sometimes two or more summer treatments are necessary. Since 1957, Doug has had to take 61 road trips retuning for "treatments." Doug and Pat report that for this most recent treatment they experienced the best weather imaginable and the trout catchin' was the finest ever.

Maybe - - just maybe - - the memories of this treatment will suppress The Fever until next summer.



A 17" wild cutbow caught & released by Doug and a 17" wild "butter belly" brown caught & released by Pat **WAahWHOooo!**

2ND ANNUAL GEORGIA

Fishing

for

VETS Day

NOVEMBER 1ST
9 AM TO 3 PM | 2009



Be a part of the Second Annual Georgia Fishing for Vets Day - a program dedicated to all Georgia Veterans. This FREE event is open to all Veterans and is sponsored by Fly Fishing for Vets and your Georgia Fishing Guides and Services. So join us at Paces Mill Park on the Hoch. There will be food, drinks, fun for the family, plus lots of fish. Our volunteers and sponsors will have extra waders, rods, and reels for our veterans. All you need is your Georgia fishing license with trout stamp and you're set. For more information and directions please visit our website where you can sign up as a Vet or a Volunteer:

www.flyfishingforvets.com



Fly Fishing for Vets
A MILITARY FAMILY EXPERIENCE

<http://www.flyfishingforvets.com/>



Paces Mill Park
Cobb Parkway just south of Paces Mill Road

Directions:

From I-285 East:
Take Exit 19 (U.S. 41 (Cobb Parkway))
South 1.5 miles to the unit entrance on right, just beyond
the EP Service Station. Do not cross the Chattahoochee.

From I-285 West:
Take Exit 20 (U.S. 41 (Cobb Parkway))
South 1.5 miles to the unit entrance on right, just beyond
the EP Service Station. Do not cross the Chattahoochee.

From I-75 North:
Take Exit 25 (Mt. Paran Road)
Left on Mt. Paran Road to U.S. 41 (Cobb Parkway). Turn right on
U.S. 41 for 1 mile, cross the Chattahoochee and take an
immediate left onto entrance road.

From I-75 South:
Take Exit 25 (Mt. Paran Road)
Right on Mt. Paran Road to U.S. 41 (Cobb Parkway). Turn right on
U.S. 41 for 1 mile, cross the Chattahoochee and take an
immediate left onto entrance road.



www.atlantaflyfishing.com



www.flyfishingforvets.com



www.flyfishingforvets.com

<http://www.flyfishingforvets.com/>

Critical Mass for A Sport of Accumulation

An essay by Sid Elliott, Upper Chattahoochee Chapter, originally published in July 2004

I began trout fishing on the Chattahoochee almost 20 years ago and like most people began using a spinning rod. My first trip was in a canoe fishing between the shoals at the Jones Bridge ramp. I only caught a couple of trout on that first trip, but I was struck by the beauty of the river and knew this was something I would enjoy. I saw people wading and in float tubes and concluded I needed a little more equipment.

After about a year, I had seen a number of people fly fishing so I decided I should try this. The need for new equipment seemed modestly incremental at the time; I had waders, a float tube and a vest. I just needed a fly rod, reel, line and maybe a dozen flies.

I was progressing into the sport with a friend who like me was new to trout fishing and as we were moving into fly fishing, I recall him saying that he liked this because as compared to bass fishing "it's real simple and you don't need a lot of stuff." **Yeah, right!!**

Learning to fly cast was a challenge. No matter what I tried, it just didn't seem to work for very long or very well. Looking back, I know I should have taken some lessons, but at the time it looked so natural that I knew I would be able to master it in short order. I was so convinced I had the natural ability that I concluded my problem was that I needed more "stuff." Visiting fly shops and looking at magazines only reinforced this belief. At one point I even thought, "You have to look like a good fly fisherman to be a good fly fisherman and that requires lots of stuff." This real simple activity had become A Sport of Accumulation.

Fortunately, there are lots of little gadgets I needed that allowed me to do some accumulation without risking bankruptcy. But even gadgets have their limits. I came to believe I needed a balance of gadgets with "big stuff." After all, looking like the guy on the cover on a magazine or catalogue only goes so far if you only have one rod. I mean you have to have a short rod as well as a long rod; a fast action rod and a moderate action rod; an all around rod well as light and heavy weight rods. And you need an extra spool for a sink tip line. Otherwise you are soooooo limited in your pursuit of Nirvana. And besides that, once I had all this stuff, I knew my casting would be so much better; maybe even perfect.

Since fly rods and reels are so expensive, I have always stored mine carefully upstairs in safe but reasonably conspicuous

places; not in the basement with the spinning rods and float tubes. I only found out later that this approach creates an additional problem. I didn't have the right name for this problem until the June Chapter meeting when Rick Pope, President of Temple Fork Rods, used the precise term I had been looking for: "Critical Mass." Rick explained as fly fisherman buy more fly rods you have to achieve and then stay within Critical Mass to avoid aggravating your spouse.

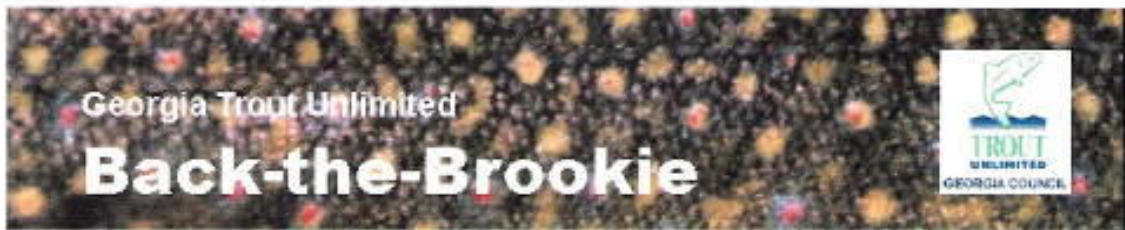
Now Critical Mass, like fingerprints and DNA, varies by individual fly fisherman (and spouse), but if there were an Official Dictionary of Fly Fishing, "Critical Mass" probably would be defined as "having enough fly fishing stuff and storing or displaying it in such a manner that your spouse can never determine when you have purchased, sold, lost, broken or found something."

Now I believe all serious fly fishermen (and women) need a CMS (Critical Mass Strategy). Most important, how do you evolve your mass to ensure it remains critical? Early on, before you have lots of stuff, you need to organize and store it in such a way to make it look like more. You may even have to add a few things that are not fly fishing just to make it look like more stuff. However, at some point you have to be careful because one more item, however small or inexpensive, could be the final straw. An essential aspect of your CMS is to move, shift, divide, clean or rearrange once or twice a year so your spouse will be comfortable with your stuff looking different from time to time. It may be beneficial to explain to your spouse that you are straightening things up and rearranging a little to make the place look better, but this varies by individual.

If you are a fly tier as well, you have to factor this into your CMS. Becoming a tier earlier has real advantages in achieving Critical Mass (assuming you store in the same general area), but if you begin tying after reaching Critical Mass you probably are better off keeping the tying stuff in a separate area. Having a long term plan that allows you to distribute your stuff into six or more areas of the house is the ultimate. If you ever get to this point, you normally can move, rearrange, shift, etc. for a long time staying within Critical Mass while accumulating a lot more stuff.

You might be a RABUNITE if you... Back-the-brookie. - Don't care about 'ball scores' when out in the woods. - Are sure a can of beanie-weenies with crackers and a box drink beside a trout stream is the perfect lunch. - Hate the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. - Enjoy a Swisher Sweet more than a Cuban cigar. - When asked 'Where was that?' answers, "I don't believe I said." - Are always ready to eat and drink. - Know that 'nice fish' is a flatlander's term for 'goodun'. - Will limit your kill, not kill your limit. - Would much rather attend *The Rabun Rendezvous* than the Fox Theater to see Thunder Road - - again. - Will scrimp, save, and work-off the "honey-do" list to go West of Hiawassee just once a year. - Believe the Burrell's Ford Road should never be completely paved. - At some time or other have fished with a Georgia nymph (cricket) or corn. - Want to see total enforcement of all erosion and sedimentation laws. - Believe a fly reel is just a device to hold line and shouldn't cost much more than the fly line itself. - Enjoy hearing the same ole campfire stories again, and again, and again. - Believe that *The Foxfire Boys* are just about the finest bluegrass band in the world. - Want to avoid conflicts between trout stream anglers and whitewater boaters. - Liked the scenery but not the story in Deliverance. - Know there is no trout stream anywhere prettier than THE RIVER. - Want to do what's best for the long-term future of the Chattooga North Fork. - Will volunteer to work in a stream doing restoration and enhancement under the supervision of Forest Service and Georgia WRD professionals. - Will sit under a tarp in the rain, and say he's having a good time. - Will help at GA Trout Camp every summer. - Know it's OK to keep a few dumplings* because the GA WRD would make more of them. - Want to give back something to the coldwater resources that have given so much joy to you. - Like sleeping on foam rubber near trout waters. - Are thankful that 60% of Rabun County is Forest Service lands and think there should be more. - Know there is no I-3 corridor through NE GA capable of avoiding the destruction of some of Georgia's precious trout habitat. - Are sure that Boones Farms apple wine, served chilled, is the perfect complement for freshly grilled dumplin* trout. - Believe that teaching conservation and stream ecology is the most important mission of the GA Trout Camp. - Believe that after a day in the stream *it don't get no better than crispy critters**, hushpuppies, and 'taters with bluegrass music beside a campfire. - Will share the Rabunite TU'er traditions and stream knowledge with the next generation of conservationists. - Will take a kid fishing; today's kids will be the watershed protectors of tomorrow.

dumplin* - A Rabunite term for freshly stocked trout dumped from the bridge. **crispy critters*** - A Rabunite term for fresh small trout or bream battered in Martha White corn meal and fried crispy. **WAaaahWHOoooo!**



September 2009

Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV)

This past year was a very successful one for GA TU and our stakeholder partners – GA DNR and USFS.

In June, we were awarded an additional \$25,000 grant from the EBTJV for brook trout work in the Chattahoochee National Forest. GA TU matches that grant with \$10,000.

Combined financial support from GA TU, the Stover Creek Embrace-a Stream Project and the EBTJV totaled \$35,000 in FY 2009 to provide for intern salaries and purchase supplies. This financial support is in addition to in-kind contributions from TU volunteers, GA DNR and USFS supervision of interns, North Georgia Tech lab testing and Soque River Water Association payroll administration.

Structures were built on: Ammons Creek (6), Bailey Branch (6) and Holcomb Creek (6) in the Chattooga watershed; Gurley Creek (10), Big Net Branch (15) and High Shoals Creek (11) in the Hiwassee watershed; North Fork Moccasin Creek (10) and Persimmon Creek (8) in the Tallulah watershed; Ramey Creek (8) in the Little Tennessee watershed; and the Upper Chattahoochee River (4) in the Chattahoochee watershed.

By increasing the number of pools and runs and expanding the density of cover logs and rocks, structures create habitat diversity. Those built in 2008 increased the percent of pools by 151%, amount of large woody debris by 270%, and stream depth by 51% which contributed to a 48% increase in brook trout biomass.

Restoration was continued on Walnut Fork in the Chattooga watershed, Tate Branch in the Tallulah watershed and Stover Creek in the Toccoa watershed.

Water sampling on selected brook trout streams continued with water samples collected by TU volunteers and interns tested in the North Georgia Tech lab.

Chapter Projects

2009 was another excellent year for chapter stream projects. Many of the projects were supported by multiple chapters again this year. Some projects had over seven Chapters being represented and as many as forty volunteers. TU volunteers worked on the following streams:

- North Fork Moccasin Creek
- Stover Creek
- Little Rock Creek
- Ramey Creek
- Upper Chattahoochee River

Stover Creek

In partnership with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Chattahoochee National Forest, GA TU completed a two year project on Stover Creek.

Led by Gold Rush TU from Dahlonega GA and Oconee River TU from Athens GA, a natural barrier was enhanced in 2008 to prevent passage of rainbow and brown trout upstream. Over the past two years, rainbow and brown trout have been serial electrofished from above and then placed downstream of the barrier restoring native brook trout.

Over forty stream structures were built along one and one half mile of stream improving stream flow and providing habitat for native Southern Appalachian Brook Trout.

Stover Creek sits just four miles from the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail and flows through one of the largest stands of Eastern Hemlocks. The Appalachian Trail crosses Stover creek three times in the restoration area.

Well done to USFS, GA DNR and all TU'ers that helped make this happen.



Facebook



Become a Facebook Fan of
GA TU Back-the-Brookie

<http://companies.to/ga-tu-btb/>

Get notified on the latest
events and info.

Contact Georgia Trout Unlimited Back-the-Brookie at btb@georgiatu.org

Click [HERE](http://www.georgiatu.org/html/back_the_brookie.html)
http://www.georgiatu.org/html/back_the_brookie.html

Status Update – Chattooga North Fork Visitor Use Capacity Analysis

The Forest Service has selected Alternative 4 (8/26/2009)

After considering public comments, preparing responses to those comments and reviewing the final analysis, the Forest Service has selected Alternative 4. Boating will be allowed during December, January and February when the flow at Burrell's Ford is above 450cfs (2.5 feet). No boating will be permitted between Burrell's Ford and Highway 28 Bridge or in the North Fork tributaries.

Boating, using single/tandem hard boats, or canoes, and inflatable kayaks, will be allowed (no rafts, no commercial guiding and no commercial shuttles). The Forest Service plans to announce the available boating days in advance. The Forest Service set the limits on boating group size to no more than six crafts and no fewer than two crafts.

"The final decision still provides additional boating opportunities on the main stem Chattooga River above the Highway 28 bridge while continuing to emphasize, protect and enhance optimal, year-round, high-quality trout fishing," said Monica Schwalbach, acting forest supervisor for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. "This decision minimizes user conflicts and also takes steps to reduce resource damage from existing and future recreation uses."

"We looked at varying levels of encounters among different user groups," said Schwalbach. "We placed limits on boating; placed limits on other user groups in regard to group size. If encounters are exceeded, all users may be limited or we may limit boaters further."

In the North Fork backcountry upstream of the Highway 28 Bridge, the maximum size of a group that can hike together on a trail is 12 people (no daily limit on the number of hiking groups), the maximum size group that can use one campsite is 6 people (backcountry camping will be in designated sites only and there will be one or more sites designated for larger groups) and the maximum group size that can fish together is 4 people (no daily limit on the number of fishing groups). Backcountry is defined as more than ¼ mile from the bridges and the Burrell's Ford walk-in campground.

Limits of acceptable change have been established for encounters. Monitoring and adaptive management will be used to protect and enhance backcountry solitude and remoteness

Some other minor modifications have been made to Alternative 4 since July 2008: boating is now permitted from the confluence of Norton Mill Creek (instead of County Line Trail) in NC south to Burrell's Ford Bridge; no limits on the number of boater groups per day; language regarding large woody debris removal has been changed to "Removal of large wood debris to accommodate recreation in the upper reaches is prohibited"; and language about closing the parking within ¼ mile of Burrell's Ford Bridge has been removed from the alternative.

To read the News Release, click

<http://www.fs.fed.us/conf/press/20090826-chattooga-rvr-dn.pdf>

A public implementation workshop will be held in the fall. Specifics regarding that meeting (location, date, time, etc.) will be released at a later date. Boating above Highway 28 may begin December 1, 2009.

To read the Decision Notice, click

http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/sumter/resources/documents/conf_dn_amendment.pdf

and go to page 5 for the details of the Selected Alternative.

All other documents are available, click

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/sumter/resources/Chattooga.php>



The late Tom Landreth fishing the Lower Steps – Chattooga North Fork

Editor's Opinion: *I believe the Forest Service (FS) designed and conducted a professional, comprehensive, and fair User Capacity Analysis. The FS attempted to involve all affected and interested parties in the analysis process through outreach using the media, the FS website and public meetings. I believe it was very important for all the stakeholders, not just the organized boaters and anglers, to have opportunities to express their opinions, desired condition needs, and vision for the future of the Chattooga North Fork.*

I would rather the selected alternative had been Alternative #3 (zoned completely boat-free with high-quality trout fishing), but I can accept Alternative #4.

I believe that the FS's preferred alternative is a compromise that is fair to all stakeholders. It is obvious that not all recreation activities are compatible. Stewardship encompasses far more than picking up litter; it includes the protection of the aesthetic values of natural resources such as remoteness and wildness, the proper regard for the rights of others to solitude, and the responsibility of preserving these values intact for future generations. I believe the zoning stipulations in Alternative #4, if properly enforced, will provide good protection for the Chattooga North Fork backcountry's Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) of solitude and remoteness for present and future generations.

I want to express my appreciation to everyone that participated in this public process.

Doug Adams – Newsletter Editor, Rabun Chapter of TU

Facebook



Click on:

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



13th ANNUAL Chili Cookoff - October 10, 2009



The Coosa Valley TU Chapter needs your help with this event.
If you can volunteer, please contact Paul Diprima, E-mail CO1381@bellsouth.net
Click on: http://coosavalleytu.org/TU_CHILI_COOKOFF/tu_chili_cookoff.html

+++++

Make your plans now!
Saturday November 21st, 2009 8am-6pm
1st ANNUAL
Gold Cup Challenge
At Frog Hollow on the Chestatee River

Sponsored By
Gold Rush Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Grand Prize
\$1000.00
and
Two Custom Rods
Awards for
2nd and 3rd



Fun and Educational
for the whole family
with fly casting
and fly tying
demonstration by
TU Gold Rush
Members

This is a Two person team tournament. Maximum 10 teams
Entry Fee: \$500 per team. Deadline October 1st 2009
Admission: \$5 Children under 12 Free
Information, Rules, Registration and Tickets sold online

@

www.goldrushtu.org



Vendors and Sponsors
Welcomed



<http://www.goldrushtu.org/>

Ellicott Rock Wilderness

<http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS&sec=wildView&wid=176>



The United States Congress designated the Ellicott Rock Wilderness ([map](#)) in 1975 and it now has a total of [8,274 acres](#). [Georgia](#) contains approximately 2,021 acres. [North Carolina](#) contains approximately 3,394 acres. [South Carolina](#) contains approximately 2,859 acres. It is managed by the Forest Service.

Description:

Rugged terrain, tall peaks, and the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River are the hallmarks of this Wilderness, which is shared by three states. It also straddles the 15,432-acre Chattooga River Wild and Scenic Corridor. The steep terrain of the Ellicott Rock Wilderness offers numerous mountains and waterfalls to explore. Boating and horses are not allowed. The wilderness is located near the area that has the highest recorded rainfall in the east. Be prepared for wet weather. In addition, temperatures in the wilderness are typically 10 or more degrees cooler all year than in nearby Walhalla.

The Georgia terrain peaks at 3,672-foot Glade Mountain. Clear perennial trout streams that occasionally drop over small waterfalls scour the numerous steep-walled gorges. Unusual rock formations hover above some of the streams, and several threatened or endangered plants have been identified.

Ellicott Rock Wilderness is rich in history. A major Cherokee trading trail passes through the wilderness. The area has had relatively little disturbance by humans. Farming by native Americans as well as settlers was limited. Although logging operations intruded in the early 1900s (as evidence attests), today's forest of hardwoods (upland and cove) is more than 80 years old. Deer, squirrels, grouse, and wild turkeys are common sights in the Georgia portion of the Wilderness, along with the more elusive black bear and raccoon. Wild boars wander in from North Carolina now and then. You may see the remains of the old moonshine stills that once brewed their potions here.

In 1811, surveyor Andrew Ellicott determined the starting point for the North Carolina-Georgia state line and chiseled an inconspicuous mark on a rock on the east bank of the Chattooga River. Here the mountainous regions of South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia converge, and this is where the Ellicott Rock Wilderness straddles the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River. Unlike many pristine areas in the western United States (but like many other southeastern Wildernesses), Ellicott Rock has been heavily impacted by humans in the not too distant past. Nevertheless, enough time has passed since the logging operations of yesteryear for impressive second-growth forests, typical of the Appalachian greenbelt, to reclaim Ellicott Rock Wilderness. Today dense stands of white pine and hemlock occupy the lower coves and areas along streams, upland hardwoods thrive on slopes, and scrub oaks and pitch pines grow on dry ridges. The region lies just south of the area that receives the highest rainfall in the eastern United States; expect some wet weather.

In South Carolina the Wilderness rises from the river to a high point on Fork Mountain at 3,294 feet. Several trails originate in the South Carolina portion. From the Sloan Bridge Picnic Area on the eastern border, 6.3 miles of the Ellicott Rock Trail will take you down to Ellicott Rock itself. This trail joins the Chattooga River Trail, which follows the South Carolina side of the river south for 4.4 miles to Burrell's Ford Campground. Ellicott Rock stands relatively near millions of Americans, and use of the area is high.

This is America's only designated Wilderness to extend into three states. In North Carolina, the bowl-shaped Wilderness drops to the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River and attracts numerous visitors. The dense overstory vegetation may appear virgin to the uninformed.

Although the area is rugged and mountainous, trails to the river are relatively easy going in, more strenuous coming back out, and day hiking constitutes the main human use. Ellicott Rock Trail typifies the footpaths. It follows an abandoned road from a parking lot for two miles before gently dropping into the Wilderness, then follows the old road another mile before bearing left steeply down one-half mile to the Chattooga River and Ellicott Rock. This site bears the inconspicuous mark of Andrew Ellicott, the surveyor who in 1811 determined the border between Georgia and North Carolina.

An excellent trail map of the Ellicott Rock Wilderness is available from the Forest Service at the Andrew Pickens Ranger District office or order by mail from

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/sumter/maps/howToOrder.php?p=1.1.6.1>

"BACKCASTING"

Sept 11 (Fri) Mentoring - Rabun County Middle School -

Charlie Breithaupt and Larry Walker assisted 26 seventh graders who caught several bream and had a great time. The Rabun County Middle School has started a program that rewards students for good performance. On a bi-weekly basis, if their attendance, punctuality, and homework quality is good, they can choose a fun event for an hour. Friday, September 11 was the first of these opportunities, and we are pleased that our Rabun TU Chapter was asked to help with a fun fishing hour at the pond next to campus. We hope to follow up this event with future functions to introduce the students to more information about our efforts to support clean water and healthy coldwater fisheries in NE GA. Report by Larry Walker



Sept 15 (Tues) Afternoon - Friends of the Upper Chattooga Meeting – 2 Rabun TU Members attended. Purpose was to discuss the Forest Service's final decision for future recreation management of the Chattooga North Fork.

Sept 15 (Tues) Evening - Chapter Meeting – 32 folks attended **Program: Alex Bell** ‘WNC Fly Fishing Trail’ <http://www.flyfishingtrail.com/> The WNC Fly Fishing Trail map was produced by the Jackson County Tourism Authority in February 2009. Alex Bell helped to prepare the map. Alex owns and operates AB’s Fly Fishing Guide Service in Sylva. A long-time resident of Western North Carolina, he has an intimate knowledge of the trout waters along the WNC Fly Fishing Trail, especially the portions that include the Tuckasegee River. Alex recently retired after 30 years in public education to provide fly fishing instruction and fly fishing guide services in the trout-rich waters of Jackson County. Click <http://abfish.org/>



During the meeting the Rabun TU Officers and Directors for F/Y2010 were elected. See the listing at the bottom of this page. **The Meeting raffle** had 11 buckets with a 36-fly assortment & box donated by Mack Martin <http://www.atlantaflyfishingschool.com/>, Tom’s used zip-on gaiters, Tom’s fly box & 18 flies, a pair of new Orvis wading shoes, a new binoculars & case, and much more. The raffle raised \$190 (the most ever for a meeting raffle) 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 everyone who purchased raffle tickets.

Sept 17 (Thurs) Meeting with George Bain, Supervisor of the National Forests in GA: Charlie Breithaupt and Doug Adams requested the meeting to discuss the GA TU / Forest Service partnership and a few current issues of concern. Mike Joyce, USFS Fisheries Biologist, also participated in the meeting.

Sept 19 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting at Atlanta Fly Fishing School – 4 Rabunites participated. Agenda included: Roll Call, Opening Remarks, Special Guest Speaker: Chris Clark - Commissioner, GA DNR; Minutes of Previous Meeting; Year End Treasurer’s Report; Fly Fishing for Vets; Saving Private Brooks; GA Trout Camp Financial Report; Back-The-Brookie; CEI Report Form & Re-chartering update; GA Wildlife Federation Funding for lobbying; Chattooga North Fork Zoning Report; Earth Share; TU Accident Insurance; TU on Facebook; Bass Pro Shops Trout Day 2/20-21/2010; Advocacy - GA Conservation Voters; TU National 50th Anniversary meeting; Dream Trip for 2010; Georgia Water Coalition meeting; Coosa Valley Chili cook off needs volunteers – 10/10/09; Gold Rush – Fishing Contest 11/21/09; Southeastern Rally - 5/14-15/2010 in Townsend TN; & Steel Driver repair.

Sept 19 (Sat) Rabun TU Booth at the Mountaineer Festival in Clayton – 8 Rabunites Participated.. Due to rain, they moved most of the vendors inside. There was a good turn out. A lot of questions were ask about Trout Camp and all the Stream Explorer Pamphlets were passed out. Locals asked when and where we meet and we gave them the new pamphlet that Kathy Breithaupt created (she did a great job). All in all I think it went very well. Report by Terry Rivers.

Sept 22 (Tues) BOD Meeting – 11 participated. Agenda items included: **Recaps:** 9/11 Mentoring - Rabun County Middle School; 9/15 Chattooga Boating Zoning FOTUC Meeting; 9/17 Meeting with George Bain, USFS Supervisor; 9/19 GA TU Council Meeting; 9/19 Mountaineer Festival; TU Donations for Amicalola land purchase **Updates:** OAD 9/26, LWCF; Fishing Campouts on Oct 7 – 11 & Nov 4 - 8; Assignment/Duties for Officers, Directors & Members; Oct, Nov & Dec Chapter Meeting Programs **New Business:** New Meeting Room; Trout Days Bass Pro Shop in Duluth 2/20-21/2010; GA Wildlife Fed Funding for Lobbying; Mystic M593-4 Fly Rod; Repairing the Steel Driver; Accident Insurance; Dream Trip Raffle 2010; 2010 GA Trout Camp; TU on Facebook; Spelling Bee for FAITH on 11/3. **Updates:** Publicity; Membership; Treasury Report:

THANK YOU

Mack Martin and the **AFFS** <http://www.atlantaflyfishingschool.com/> for your donation of a 36-fly assortment & box for the meeting raffle. **Atlanta Fly Fishing Club** <http://atlantaflyfishingclub.org/> for your recent donation to the GA Trout Camp in memory of Tom Landreth. Donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501(c)3 non-profit) are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

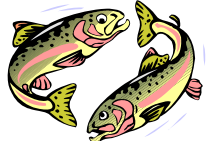
A Big Rabunite “WELCOME” to **3 new members** this month: **Michael Breithaupt** (Stream Explorer), 298 Millbrook Farm Road, Marietta, GA 30068; **Isaac McCrackin** (Trout Camper), 354 Madison Lane, Clayton, GA 30525; and **Ron Wilson** (Transfer), 1456 Burns Drive, Gainesville, GA 30501

Thanks for re-upping: **Jack Bates, Jim Nixon, Thomas West, Doug Mansfield, and Eugene Pipkin,**

It is time to renew your membership: **Allison Adams, Peggy Crowe, Lonnie English, Walter Godfrey, Charles Jenkins, Rad Smith, Chelsea Adams, Nancy Gribble, Kevin Lash, Billy McClain, Hal Avery, Randal Corbin, Sidney Doster, Joe Gatins, Reb Hester, Neil Anderson, Doug Hickman, Joe Kitchens, Walt Landreth, Thomas Stroud, and Gary Deal**

Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2010

President – Larry Walker (w/Media, Awards & Budget) POB 371, Clayton, GA 30525	Ph 706 244 4345	E-mail amosndixie@windstream.net
Vice President - Pat Hopton (w/Membership Retention & Youth outreach)	Ph 706 782 4978	E-mail scotts_creek58@yahoo.com
Treasurer - Doug Adams (w/Newsletter, BOD Agendas, Rendezvous & Budgets)	Ph 706 746 2158	E-mail edadams1@windstream.net
Secretary - Ray Gentry (w/Communications & Scouts fishing event)	Ph 404 680 6736	E-mail regentry@windstream.net
Past President - Jimmy Whiten (w/Raffles)	Ph 706 886 6546	E-mail jimmywhiten@yahoo.com
Director thru F/Y 2010: Ray Kearns (w/Meeting refreshments)	Ph 706 782 9913	E-mail raykearns@windstream.net
Director thru F/Y 2010: Bill Kelly (w/Programs & Picnic)	Ph 706 746 2104	E-mail bkik1@windstream.net
Director thru F/Y 2011: Kathy Breithaupt (w/Website, 101, & Nametags)	Ph 706 782 6954	E-mail knc615@windstream.net
Director thru F/Y 2011: Charlie Breithaupt (w/101, Library & Meeting host)	Ph 706 782 6954	E-mail knc615@windstream.net
Director thru F/Y 2012: Jim Kidd (w/Instream projects & Scouts M/B)	Ph 706 782 2474	E-mail jikidd@windstream.net
Director thru F/Y 2012: Terry Rivers (w/Festivals, BTB, Campout Equip & Mtg Raffles)	Ph 706 782 7419	E-mail tr1121@windstream.net
Director thru F/Y 2013: Tony Allred (w/Rendezvous & Membership Retention)	Ph 706 746 3892	E-mail taallred@windstream.net
Director thru F/Y 2013: Jeff Durniak	Ph 706 892 6576	E-mail Jeff_Durniak@dnr.state.ga.us



From the Fly Tying Desk of Jimmy Whiten

As my two-year term as your president winds down I realize more than ever why the Rabun Chapter (522) is so great. It's the cookouts, the camping trips, and water sampling (one of the steps or first step on improving water quality in the streams near us). Also it is all of the work days we have on the streams, the two classes we put on (Fly Fishing 101), the help we give to GA Trout Camp, the annual Rabun Rendezvous, some fishing (of course) and the list goes on and on.

Your BOD meets monthly. There are always a number of items on the agenda to help make our meetings more enjoyable, or to help in some way on conservation and ways to make our streams better. Also, sometimes stocking is discussed (which I'm sure is not a big concern for most of you). From time to time something about fish or fishing is mentioned.

I am proud to have served two years as your President and the small part that I have played with your hard working BOD. I am looking forward to working with the BOD as Past President and with Larry Walker as President. I know the Rabun Chapter is in good hands for the next two years with this slate of officers.

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 \$1.28 per newsletter mailed:

E-Mail edadams1@windstream.net

RABUN CHAPTER of TROUT UNLIMITED

PO BOX 371

CLAYTON, GA 30525