



TIGHT LINES December 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/>

"Each fishing expedition is different, offering a continual learning opportunity."
 From "Fishing Flies" by Marin Ford

THE DECEMBER MEETING is the ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER!

In the Rock House at the Dillard House – 2nd Tuesday, December 8th
 6:00 PM Social (BYOB) & 7:00 PM Dinner with the Awesome Dessert Table

Cost: \$25 per person - Reservations Required.

You must contact June Landreth to reserve your place! E-mail: landreth@windstream.net Phone: 706 746 2295
 There will not be a raffle at the Annual Christmas Dinner.

WARNING – WARNING!!

Chattooga DH WARNING: On Monday Nov. 2, a car parked in the parking lot at the 28 bridge on the SC side of the river was broken into. The thieves knocked out the rear window of an SUV, and escaped. SC DNR personnel were in the food plots up the road helping with the helicopter stocking of the DH section and heard the noise, but by the time they arrived the thieves were gone.

As a precaution, do not carry more fishing gear than you will take fishing with you. Don't leave other valuables in your car. This has been an ongoing problem for fishermen at this parking lot over the years, and very difficult for law enforcement to stop. **From:** Tom McInnis – SC TU Member, Chattooga River TU Chapter (11/10/2009)

"FORWARD CASTING" Important Dates – See you there!

Dec 5 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting Annual planning meeting with USFS, GA WRD, and NPS. 9 AM at the USFS office in Gainesville

Dec 5 (Sat) Pickin' for the Park Benefit Concert, 6PM Stekoa Creek Trading Co

Dec 8 (Tues) Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner Social starts 6 pm and Dinner served 7 pm in the Rock House at the Dillard House. Entire family invited, BYOB. Contact June Landreth to make reservations. E-mail: landreth@windstream.net Phone: 706 746 2295

Jan 11 (Mon) Deadline for 2010 Trout Camper applications.

Jan 12 (Tues) BOD Meeting 6:30 PM, RE/MAX Office.

Jan 19 (Tues) Chapter Meeting 6:30 PM, RE/MAX Office
Program: Jeff Angel, FS Law Enforcement Officer, "Common Sense Solutions to Game & Fish Law Violations".

Jan 23 (Sat) 23rd Annual Rabun Rendezvous, 5 PM 'til
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



GOLDEN RETRIEVER

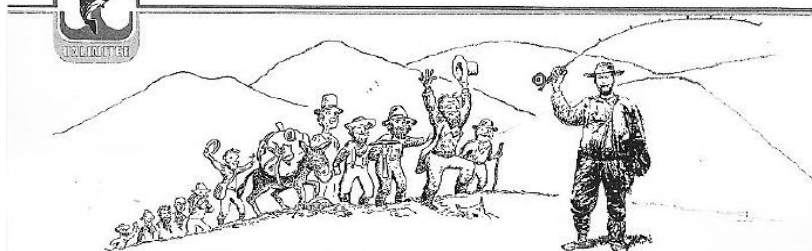
THIS FLY HAS BEEN VERY GOOD FOR ME ON THE DELAYED HARVEST STREAMS. I TIE IT WITH SOME WEIGHT AND DROP A NATURAL LOOKING NYMPH OFF THE BACK. SOMETIME THE TROUT ARE ATTRACTED TO THE FLASH AND TAKE THE NATURAL PATTERN. SEE Y'ALL ON THE RIVER

HOOK: 8/10 3x
TAIL: TAN MARABOU
THREAD: RED OR YELLOW
HEAD: BRASS BEAD
BODY: GOLDEN ESTAZ

"My size 8 golden retriever was flashy and particularly enticing." from [Chattooga DH for Newbies](#) by The Dredger (11/9/09)

December 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
Blue Winged Olive & Blue Quill	All Month	Late AM to Mid PM	16-20 BWO, Blue Quill or Adams Parachute 16-20 BWO nymph or Pheasant Tail
Midges	All Month	All Day	18-22 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa



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

Please Join Us for the 23rd Annual Rabun Rendezvous

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

When: Saturday, January 23, 2010

Where: The "NEW" Dillard House Conference Center (doubled in size), located behind the Dillard House in Dillard, Georgia.



Who: The more the better. Everyone interested in protecting our cold-water resources, including their families, friends, and all who love clean cold streams, trout, and trout fishing.

Social: About 5 o'clock PM folks will start gathering to "pick the pig" and enjoy the rocking chairs on the porch of the Conference Center. There will be snack trays of cheeses, crackers, veggies with dips, and fruits. Soft drinks and ice will be available. If you want something stronger, better bring it yourself. There will be a fire inside to warm your buns.

The Foxfire Boys (as seen in the Chattooga River episode of TUTV's "On The Rise") will again generously provide their 'down home' style of bluegrass picking and singing for your musical entertainment.

Remember to ask about The Foxfire Boys CDs (now 4 of them), which will be available.

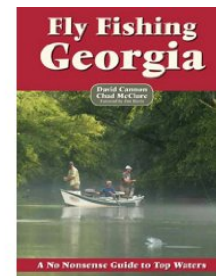
The large screen TV will be showing the Rabunites trout fishing some of their favorite 'secret spots'. This will be the ideal time to be looking over the raffle and silent auction items. **We welcome donations of raffle and auction items at the door, fellow TU'ers.**

Dinner: Fish, chicken, and pork with all the side dishes and desserts that have made the Dillard House so famous, will be served about 6:30. It is a serve yourself buffet, so you will not leave hungry.



Program presenter will be David Cannon, A Rabunite
<http://www.cannonoutdoors.com/>
"Experiences of an Outdoors Writer"

He will share stories and pictures from his experiences researching for his book
"Fly Fishing Georgia: A No Nonsense Guide to Top Waters"
<http://www.amazon.com/Fly-Fishing-Georgia-Nonsense-Guidebooks/dp/1892469200>



There will be 2 special live auctions:

FROM CRAWFORD ART GALLERY

<http://broderickcrawfordart.com/>

Broderick has done a new print called "Trout".

It is all the trout one could catch in America.

Crawford Art Gallery is donating print #1 framed to Rabun TU.



The artist's signed and framed #1 print will be offered for sale at a live auction during the 2010 Rabun Rendezvous.

All proceeds from the sale of this beautiful #1 print will be donated to the Georgia "Back-The-Brookie" program.

JIMMY HARRIS' UNICOI OUTFITTERS

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

& THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TU

are donating a certificate for a half day for 2 people of catch and release trophy trout fishing at [Nacoochee Bend HERE](#) and a R. L. Winston Vapor 9-ft 5-wt 4-piece fly rod [HERE](#) plus a Ross CLA Reel [HERE](#).
(\$750 package retail value)



The package will be offered for sale at a live auction during the 2010 Rabun Rendezvous.

All proceeds from the sale of this the package will go to support the operation of the Georgia Wildlife Federation's Camo Coalition <http://www.camocoalition.com/>

Cost: \$30 for adults and \$25 for youth of 15 and under. Cash, personal checks are fine, we also accept VISA & MasterCard credit cards. We don't do advanced tickets or reservation; just pay at the door.

Lodging: The Dillard House has set special rates for motel rooms for the event - with a few rooms starting as low as \$49 (plus tax) for those "early bird" reservations. To get a special rate, call and **tell them you're attending the Trout Unlimited Rabun Rendezvous.** Call: 706-746-5348 or Toll Free 1-800-541-0671

You must say you are there with Trout Unlimited to get the special rate.

The 2009 Rabun Rendezvous provided funds for the following: Sponsorship of student interns working in NE GA fisheries w/ GA WRD & USFS; Sponsored 2 youngsters attending the GA Trout Camp; Financial support of GA DNR's Smithgall Woods Youth Conservation Education Program; Lab fees for the Stekoa Creek Monitoring Project; Amicalola Creek tract purchase w/Nature Conservancy/GA DNR; GA "Back-the-Brookie" Program; Kid's Fishing Events at Black Rock Mtn S.P. (GA DNR) & Tallulah River (USFS); Fly Fishing for Vets Wounded Warriors Program; Stop I-3 Coalition; National TU's "First Cast", "Embrace-A-Stream" & "Southeaster Public Lands" Programs; "Trout" magazine subscriptions to all school & public libraries and 3 state parks in Rabun Co.

Request to the Rabunites and Friends

With the budget crunch faced by the agencies (the US Forest Service and GA WRD), Trout Unlimited can again step-up in 2010 and be the lead financial partner in protecting, preserving, connecting and enhancing the coldwater resources in Northeast Georgia, including the "Back the Brookie" activities. The Rabun Chapter's major fundraiser of the year, the Rabun Rendezvous, is just a few weeks away. As we near the end of the year and the Christmas season, now is a good time to ask friends and supporters for donations of goods and services for the silent auction and bucket raffle.

Need an idea for what you can donate?

Art & crafts (fishing flies, wood working, sewing, knitting items) and goodies from the kitchens of the Rabunites (cakes, breads, baskets with canned veggies, jams, jellies and preserves) have always been popular with our guests. Instead of buying something to donate, consider just donating the cash.

'Websites-of-the-Month': http://www.midcurrent.com/articles/books/rosenbauer_reading_water.aspx

Reading the Water: Stream reading is a vital skill for prospecting.

Bob Bachman (A TUer friend of the Rabunites who lives in PA) has determined that brown trout prefer to lie in water with a speed from one-quarter to one-half foot per second and feed in water running about two feet per second.

Stekoa Creek Update

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 31 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.

Pickin' for the Park

Benefit Concert for the Stekoa Creek Park Project - Saturday, December 5th starting at 6 pm.
Stekoa Creek Trading Company Concert Hall (located just off Hwy. 441 South behind Checkers in Clayton)
Music performed by: The Foxfire Boys, Mountain Hoodoo, Brad Barrett, John Oliver & Carmel Ridge
Great food! By SHINERS RESTAURANT

The Stekoa Creek Park project will establish a new city park on a 2.9-acre strip of land in between Highway 441 and Stekoa Creek just north of downtown Clayton, and will be a wonderful, new place for all to enjoy in Rabun County!
Bring the family, join the fun, and support the Stekoa Creek Park Project! Donations accepted at the door.

"Catchin' Corner" - December Troutng Tips

Winter "Chuck and Duck"

By Jeff Durniak, Georgia Wildlife Resources Division

Tip: fish deep and slow. And I mean deep - on the bottom. Most unsuccessful anglers I meet streamside seem to fish too shallow because of a short leader and/or not enough weight.

If you're brave, try the "chuck and duck" with this leader setup I'm experimenting with. For a leader, tie as much 6 or 8 lb test mono to your fly line as you can handle. Try 8 or 10 feet to start with, then work up to 12 feet for the really deep pools. To the end of the mono, knot on 18 inches of 5X tippet and put enough split shot above that knot to get your fly ticking along the bottom. I use the Water Gremlin removable split shot and will adjust my weight at each pool according to water depth and velocity. I'm typically using from one to four size BB or 3/0 shot in those big Chattooga pools. (Leave those tiny Dinsmores home til spring brings the fish closer to the surface.) Put your strike indicator right up next to the fly line. Sometimes even it will be 2-3 feet underwater, too, as you dredge the big pools with a DRAG FREE drift..

On the end of the 5x tie the egg or bugger. Off the bend of the first fly's hook tie another 18 inches of 5X and then tie on the pheasant tail. Limit backcasting to one false cast or roll cast or, better yet, a water load.

The deep, slow pools hold the most fish right now and the slow velocity gives those sluggish critters a chance to consider eating your offering. Same goes for bait anglers on our general regulation waters- get your offerings down. Many of the strikes are very light, so be ready. The light mono prevents a lot of slack, drag, and curves in your leader, and allows a straight line right to your offerings, which plummet straight to the bottom. Bring at least 6 flies of each favorite pattern and plan to leave many on the bottom as dues for your wonderful day away from responsibility.

"Chuck and duck" is not as much fun to cast as a nice dry on a tapered leader on a warm May evening. But I like catching more than casting, and the winter fish are untiring in these cold waters. A big, bulldogging brown is better than a hand warmer in improving your circulation!

I hope a few of these tips will help you to be even more successful. Most of us are not experts, but we enjoy the sport and enjoy sharing some helpful hints with others so that they can have more success, too. Feel free to share your tips with the rest of us. I have learned a lot already from many Georgia anglers, young and old, and thank you for them.

To close, one old friend has said to me, "you don't have to believe this story if you don't want to," so I'll offer the same courtesy to ya!!!

Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year. Take a new friend fishing and send us your pictures!

Check the water temperature here <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?02176930> (*c x 1.8 + 32 = *F). Fishing is better as the air and water warms into the 50's. Trout fishing across north Georgia should remain good if the water stays over the magic 40-degree mark. Grab a kid and some nightcrawlers or salmon eggs and enjoy a sunny afternoon astream! Good luck!

www.gofishgeorgia.com

"Take a seat there and listen to the forest birds. Close your eyes and let the sweet gurgle of the brook wash all that nasty stuff away. So what if you haven't caught one yet. Where would you rather be, at work?"

From Flashes In The River by Ed Gray (1996)



MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW SEASON!

Steelheading THE RIVER on 11-21-09

By The Dredger

Dredger and Foothills TU'er "Sautee" introduced three guests to the DH section of THE RIVER on Saturday. Trip leaders had looked at river flow and Doppler radar on Friday night and saw a great window of opportunity for the next day.

Athens TU'er "Leaky Waders" brought NGTO "drag-free drift" seminar graduates (and potential Rabunites) "Mudpuppy" and "Fishing" up with him from the flatlands. The fivesome hiked in from the GA side, split up at the end of the road, and safely fished from that side of river by using a buddy system (stick close to a friend while wading). Of course, the newbie trio was trained in Rabunite terminology throughout the day and also invited to the Rendezvous. All folks caught some fish, with several getting into double digits on a mixed bag of rainbows and browns as they learned how to Waah-Hoo with each hookset. Tip o the hat to Sautee for the assist to the newbies.



The highlight of the trip was young Fishing's first brook trout, a beautiful 16-inch male. We think some real fish tales will be told back at GA Southern University. The final exam on Saturday was administered on the hike out. When Fishing was asked where he caught that brookie, he correctly replied, "I don't believe I said."



The newbies saw that some on-the-water practice of the drag-free drift really paid off! Hot flies were dead-drifted egg flies (salmon-colored) and golden retrievers on long leaders and 4X tippet, with enuf weight to tap the bottom on occasion in the BIG water. The river was running at 2.4 on the Hwy 76 gauge, so it was more challenging than normal, but still easily achievable in the right spots with an extra shot or two on the leader. The value of those Thingamabobbers was realized as they rode the waves well, held up all that lead with their advanced "trapped air technology," and showed attentive newbies all the fish strikes.



Tip: Now is a tale of two rivers. Forget the river you fished during the last three years of drought. Think "steelhead river," adapt your wading technique, gear, and even flies to big water, and have fun. Fish like water. We now have lots. Perfect your big water techniques for this El Nino winter and maybe you'll grip-n-grin like Fishing, too!

A healthy and prosperous America relies on the health of our nation's forests.

Did you know:

- > Nearly 87% of all of the country's fresh water supply originates from forests and agricultural lands and more than 200 million people rely on their drinking water from public and private forests and grasslands;
- > 53% of the Nation's total water supply originates from public and private forest lands;
- > More than 900 cities rely on national forest watersheds;
- > 3,400 public water systems serving 66 million people in 33 states are supplied by watersheds with Forest Service land;
- > Public and private forests in the 20 Northeastern and Midwestern States help to protect more the 1,600 drinking water supplies
- > Supplying more than 4 trillion gallons per day to households of more than 52 million Americans;
- > 80% of the forest area in the United States is outside of the National Forest System;
- > The estimated annual value of water from national forests for in-stream uses is at least \$3.7 billion.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/invo/news/2009/08/vision.shtml>

Chattahoochee-Nantahala TU Chapter #692, Blairsville GA, announces:

The Second Annual Southern Appalachian Fly Tying Championship

The contest is a fund raising effort to support the activities of the Chapter. For contest details, visit www.ngatu692.com.

Letters To and From The Rabunites

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Subject: RE: TIGHT LINES September 2009 Newsletter
I don't stop often enough to thank you for the updates, newsletters, and for what you do for Georgia. Thank you.

From: Gordon Rogers - Satilla Riverkeeper, Waynesville, GA
<http://www.satillariverkeeper.org/>

Editors Notes: *Thank you for your kind comments.*

Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Subject: Re: TIGHT LINES September 2009 Newsletter
Good Morning! And thanks for the newsletter as always. A good read with the 3rd cup of coffee before having to contend with the work world. But, as our old friend Tom would say, "next week I will be west of the Hiwassee (or was that west of the hootch)". Send my mail to South Park for the first week in September!

From: John C. Kies – Hendersonville, NC

Editors Notes: *Wishing you TIGHT LINES, John.*

Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Subject: Re: TIGHT LINES September 2009 Newsletter
Your write up of the Russell Field proposal is good. While I could support a restoration of the Russell House on the 5 acres of the National Historic Site, I can not support the whole 15 acre grand plan. That's prime edge habitat about to be compromised severely, if they develop it to the extent they propose.

I was out there Saturday...there were yearling bear tracks in one of the gullies. I have witnessed a mass migration of Red Efts (terrestrial phase Red Spotted Newts) across Highway 28 just where they want to expand.

Not least: Those are Cherokee Old Fields, a tragic place where American killed American and where First Americans died awful deaths. We do not need concerts and gift shops out there, as I see it.

Above all: Those field are a truly rare thing: wild fields in the middle of a national forest, by a W&S River. I just do not understand why they would want to diminish that by bringing a little more of the city out to that little bit of remaining wild country.

From: Butch Clay – Mountain Rest, SC

Editors Notes: *Thank you for sharing your comments, Butch.*

Date: October 14, 2009 **Sent:** By US Postal,

On behalf of the Atlanta Fly Fishing Club, please accept this donation of \$500 in support of the annual helicopter stocking of the Chattooga River. Our members are proud to support your efforts in this endeavor.

Keep up your great work for the betterment of the fishery and the fishing experiences for all Georgia anglers. Sincerely,

From: Phil Schenuk – President, Atlanta Fly Fishing Club
<http://atlantaflyfishingclub.org/>

Editors Notes: *Thank you for your donation and kind words.*

Date: October 27, 2009 **Sent:** By US Postage

Dear Mr. Walker, Thank you for your chapter's \$1,050 contribution for our purchase and protection of the 469 acre tract that we commonly refer to as the Dawson Forest Forestar tract. The almost 2 miles of Amicalola Creek that passes through the property is lovely trout habitat and part of our larger efforts to protect and improve aquatic habitat in the Etowah and Conasauga Rivers, and their major tributaries. As you likely know, the broader protection of this tract ties together over 25,000 acres of Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area, an important refuge for large variety of our state's plants, animals and fish. Through the support and collaboration of conservation partners like Trout Unlimited, we look forward to many more conservation victories similar to the protection of this tract of land and section of Amicalola Creek in the future. Very Sincerely,

From: Dr. Shelly Lakly – Executive Director, The Nature

Conservancy, GA

I appreciate all you do for conservation. Thank you! Shelly

Editor's Notes: *The GA TU Council donated \$8,000 and the 12 GA Chapters of TU donated another \$12,000 for a total TU donation of \$20,000.*

Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Subject: RE: TIGHT LINES November 2009 Newsletter
Thanks so much. I look forward to reading the newsletter. I'm looking at other story about the state of West Virginia, how they are stocking smaller and smaller trout. The fishing around Cranberry, Cherry, Tea Creek and Second Creek, has fallen off. The biggest trout this year was 6-8". Just two years ago I was regularly catch 16-20" rainbows and brook. I only saw and caught one Brook this year. All the other fish were small rainbows real small. Other friends and big timers are questioning, what happen. Hatches were big this year. Some are looking out of state for better fishing holes. Our fishing has not been very good.

From: Chuck Thomas – WV

Editors Notes: *Thank you for your kind words. Come on down to NC or GA. Try some of our Delayed Harvest streams. I believe you will enjoy what you experience.*

Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2009

Subject: Re: TIGHT LINES November 2009 Newsletter

Doug, That sure was a big ole black dog on your porch!

From: Alex Watson – Atlanta, GA

Editors Notes: *Yes, and he keeps growing bigger every year!*

Sent: By US Postal, October 30, 2009

Subject: RE: TIGHT LINES November 2009 Newsletter

The November TIGHT LINES is terrific! Good work! Wish I could make the campout.

Here is one of my rare, unexpected, irregular, sporadic and insufficient contributions to the kitty (check enclosed). Best to you and Eedee.

From: Ralph Morgan, a Rabunite – St. Marys, GA

Editors Notes: *Thank you for your kind words and your generous donation. And best wishes to you and Sandy. See you at the Rendezvous.*

Sent: November 2, 2009

To: Atlanta Fly Fishing Club, C/o Phil Schenuk – President

Today, November 2nd, the USFS firefighting helicopter with ground support from GA and SC Forest Service personnel began delivered trout to the backcountry of the Chattooga's North Fork. The trout were provided by SC DNR and GA WRD and paid for by fishing license and trout stamp fees. The Chattooga North Fork has received annual helicopter trout stockings for over 35 years. Due to Forest Service budget constraints in GA during the past 20 years, TU in Georgia has had a "challenge cost share agreement" with the USFS. Anglers and the USFS split the helicopter costs 50-50. Currently Rabun TU's Tom Landreth Memorial Fund, GA TU Council, and the Atlanta Fly Fishing Club contribute \$1500/year to deliver GA WRD's trout to the lower backcountry of the Wild & Scenic Chattooga's North Fork and West Fork.

On behalf of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited, thank you for your generous donation of \$500 on October 14th that paid one third of the angler's share. Sincerely,

From: Doug Adams - Treasurer of Rabun Chapter of TU

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

Status Update – Chattooga North Fork Recreation Management Plan

In August 2009, the forest supervisors of the Sumter, Chattahoochee and Nantahala national forests identified Alternative 4 of the Chattooga North Fork Environmental Assessment (EA) as the agency's final decision for the management of recreation uses for the Chattooga North Fork. The decision emphasizes year-round high-quality trout fishing and at the same time provides boating opportunities on the North Fork. For links to the EA and decision notices, click <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/sumter/resources/Chattooga.php>

On October 26, 2009, the Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service granted Georgia ForestWatch's stay request. As a result, the status quo is preserved on the river until a decision is finalized on each of the five appeals, which is expected in the spring of 2010.

What's New Elsewhere?

USFS-SC Recreational fishing is a high priority for the Sumter National Forest. Fisheries management helps meet the increasing demand for recreational fishing. All waters on the Sumter National Forest are managed in cooperation with the SC Department of Natural Resources. A valid South Carolina fishing license is required to fish on the national forests. The Andrew Pickens Ranger District in the northwest corner of the state is best known for the [Chattooga Wild and Scenic River](#). In addition to floating on the Chattooga, you can fish for rainbow and brown trout, and redeye bass. For trout, you'll have the best success above the Highway 28 Bridge. For a really unique fishing experience, try fishing the Chattooga inside the [Ellicott Rock Wilderness](#). To read more, click [HERE](#)



FILE PHOTO BY DOUG ADAMS

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

The USFS firefighting helicopter with ground support from GA and SC Forest Service personnel delivered trout to the backcountry of the Chattooga's North Fork again this fall. The trout that were stocked ranged in size from 5-inch sub-adults (for put and grow management) to adults. The trout were provided by SC DNR and GA WRD and paid for by fishing license and trout stamp fees. The Chattooga North Fork has received annual helicopter trout stockings for over 35 years. Due to Forest Service budget constraints in GA during the past 20 years, TU in GA has had a "challenge cost share agreement" with the USFS. Anglers and the USFS split the helicopter costs 50-50. Currently Rabun TU's Tom Landreth Memorial Fund, GA TU Council, and the Atlanta Fly Fishing Club (AFFC) contribute \$1500/year to deliver GA WRD's trout to the lower backcountry of the Wild & Scenic Chattooga's North Fork and West Fork.

USFS-GA Toccoa River Floating, Rafting and Boating Considerations - Public Notice:

Those persons floating the Toccoa River are allowed passage through private lands along the river. However, according to state law, fishing, camping and entering onto private land is illegal without landowner permission, as is fishing from the river in a boat, tube, or any other floating

device where both sides of the river are privately owned. For more, click [HERE](#)

USFS-GA LWCF Update (10/29/2009) - The Chattahoochee-Oconee NF (CONF) [HERE](#) made the cut in the interior appropriations committee conference meeting. This is where they reconcile House and Senate budget requests. For the first time in three years, GA will receive [Land and Water Conservation Fund \(LWCF\)](#) [HERE](#) funds for land acquisition. The Forest will receive \$1.2 million. This money will be used to purchase land from The Trust For Public Lands (TPL) [HERE](#) on the Oconee NF. This sets the bar for the next three years. The CONF Program Manager for land adjustment has a great tract lined up in Lumpkin County that has over a mile of trout stream. On another note - please be aware that the CONF just closed with the Conservation Fund [HERE](#) on the Dyer tract north of Helen. This 150-acre tract contained over 4000 feet of headwaters for the Chattahoochee River. By being prepared and having support, the Forest was able to acquire \$700,000 in unused LWCF last year and match it with about \$1 million from the Georgia Land Trust Service Center [HERE](#) mitigation money. Good for the trout and the watershed. Good things can happen if we work and let our voice be heard. Report filed by Jim Kidd, a Rabunite.



USFS-GA Chattooga River Ranger District Office wins environmental award (11/2/2009)—

If there was an Olympic competition for having an environmentally friendly office, the employees of the Chattooga River Ranger District would have brought home a gold medal. This new U.S. Forest Service office building, located in Rabun County along Highway 441, was recently awarded the Gold LEED Certification by the Green Building Council [HERE](#) for incorporating dozens of energy saving features into its design and for using waste reduction construction techniques. "We felt like this was an important thing to do," said George Bain, Forest Supervisor for the CONF in Georgia. "When you look at the impacts that buildings have on our environment it is significant," Bain said. A quick glance at the Green Building Council website reveals some startling facts such as: 72% of all electricity consumption in the United States comes from buildings, 40% of raw materials used are for buildings, and 30% of all waste output (about 136 million tons each year) result from buildings. For more, click [HERE](#)

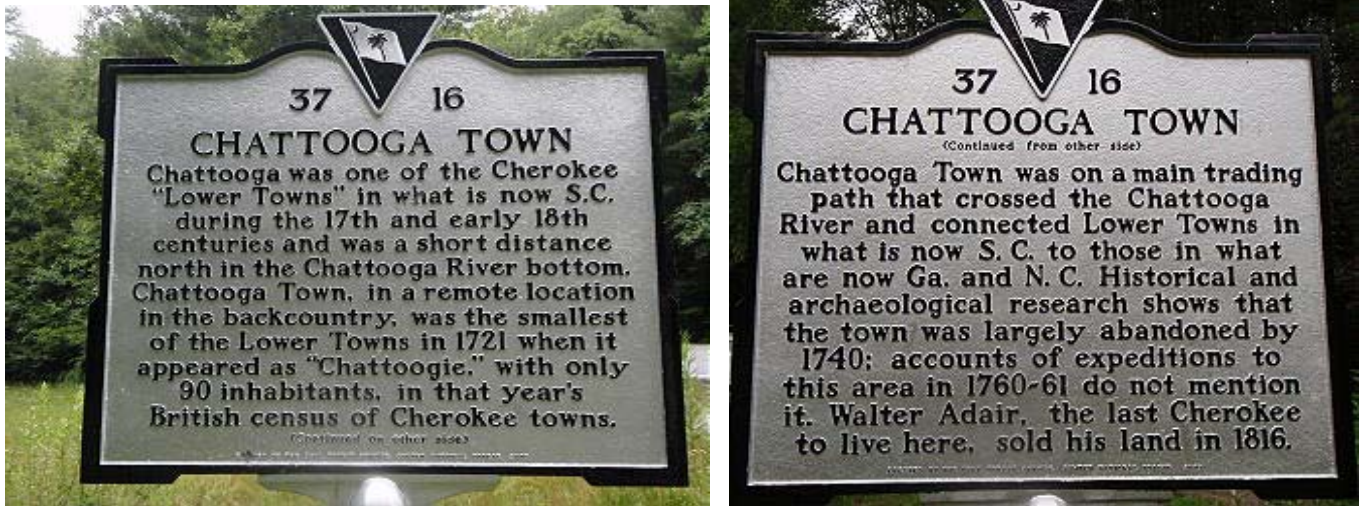
Know Your Forest: 6th in a series

The Chattooga Old Town

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

"The bridge [Highway 28] isn't far from Chattooga Old Town, the site of the former Cherokee village for which the river was named. No one is completely certain, but most believe that the word Chattooga is related to a Cherokee word for crossing, tsatugi, meaning either "we have crossed here" or "he has crossed the river and come out upon the other side." European disease and forced displacement wiped out the Old Town's ninety or so inhabitants by 1775. All that is left is a flattened patch of grass, hardly bigger than a high-school football field, a place where something used to be."

From "The Last Wild River" by Bronwen Dickey <http://brwendickey.com/writing/the-last-wild-river.php>



This Historical Marker is located at the site of the Russell Farmstead on Highway 28 in SC.

The Chattooga River was named after the historic Cherokee town of Chattooga. The town was situated in bottomlands along the edge of the river (near the Highway 28 Bridge) from the late 16th to the early 18th centuries. It was reported in 1721 to have a population of 90 individuals and is shown on maps made by the British colonial authorities in 1722 and 1730.

The University of Tennessee and the Forest Service conducted archeological excavations at the town site from 1989 to 1994. This study identified the Cherokee townhouse, or council house, and several houses widely scattered along bottomlands near the river. The townhouse was rebuilt several times over the approximately 160-year occupation of the town. It was a circular building about 45 feet in diameter with a central hearth and benches around exterior walls. The roof was earth covered and rounded with a centrally located hole to let out smoke from their fire.

Cherokee summerhouses in the 18th century were rectangular and measured about 12 feet wide and 20 feet long.

They were built of posts set in the ground with walls of split river cane plastered over with white clay. The roofs were made of clapboard. In the cold of winter round earth-covered winter houses were used. These were about 30 feet in diameter, shaped like a cone, and contained only a small entrance and smoke hole to retain the heat from a small fire burning in a central hearth. The Chattooga Town location is protected by the Forest Service as a significant historic site.

2010 Dream Trip Raffle For A Fly Fishing Vacation!

The winner and their partner will each receive: • 5 days fishing and 6 nights lodging and meals at a private cabin in Island Park Idaho • Custom made fly rod with reel & line • A fly box and flies for the trip (Approx. 5-7 dozen per box) • \$1,000 in travel expenses (this is total, not per person) Runner up prizes will include custom made fly rods, fishing trips, and boxes of flies.

Winner will be drawn at the Georgia Foothills Chapter of Trout Unlimited annual banquet the "Hoot on the Hooch" in Helen, GA in March 2010. One winner will be drawn and the winner will choose a partner to accompany them on the trip.

Contact Jimmy Whiten for your raffle tickets: E-mail jimmywhiten@yahoo.com

Summary of F/Y 2009 Rabun TU Chapter Annual Financial & Volunteer Hours Report

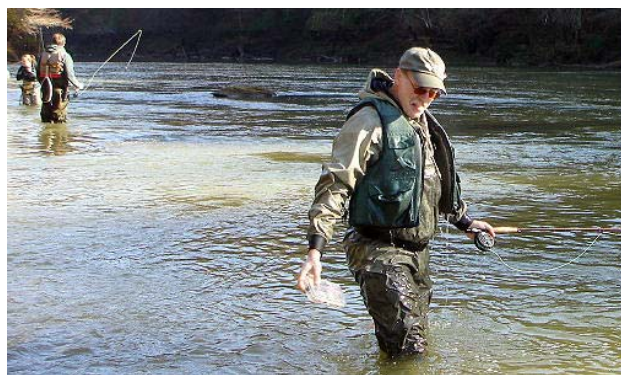
(This annual report is required to maintain the Chapter's tax-exempt status)

Total Revenue (Cash inflow) - **\$31,013** **Total Expenses** (Program services - \$19,972; Fundraising - \$9,183) - **\$29,155**
Total Assets (Cash, Receivables, CDs, Inventory) - **\$23,914** **Total Liabilities** - **\$0**

Estimated Volunteer Hours: Conservation (restoration, connection, protection, and advocacy projects) – **145 hours**
Youth Education – **685 hours** **General Education** – **190 hours** **Travel** – **483 hours** **Fundraising** - **590 hours**
General Operations (newsletter, website, membership, programs, reports) – **630 hours**
Total Estimated Volunteer Hours – **2723 hours**

The Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI) is 93 of a possible 100.

Hey Jeff, there were witnesses! What score were you given for this fall?



Editor's Notes: To review the Rabunite method for scoring of falls, click [HERE](#) and scroll about half way down.

Now is the time to begin the application process for Georgia Trout Camp 2010.

Think - your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, neighbor's kids, or any kid that is excited about the outdoors and fishing.



(Click logo for more info)

Rabun Chapter will sponsor 2 campers. Here are a few facts and instructions:

Camp Dates: June 6 (Sunday) - June 11 (Friday); **Cost:** \$450 per camper (financial aid is available) Includes room, board, and all activities for the five-day camp. **Deadline to apply:** January 11, 2010

Instructions: Applications must be completed and turned in to Rabun Chapter by 1/11/2010.

Information and application forms are available on the Council website <http://georgiatu.org/>

Mail applications to: Rabun TU, PO Box 371, Clayton, GA 30525

By not later than 3/31/2010, the Rabun Chapter will select 2 campers from the applicants to sponsor. (Campers must be within the ages of 12 – 15 at time of camp)

Each of the 12 chapters in Georgia has two spots to fill and each chapter decides how they want to select their campers. Once a chapter chooses their campers, the application, along with their tuition check, is forwarded to the Trout Camp Coordinator (Charlie Breithaupt). Campers will be notified of their acceptance as soon as possible. Later, around early May, more detailed information will be sent to each camper. Questions and/or concerns should be directed to the Camp Coordinator, Charlie Breithaupt, 194 Kitchens Lane; Clayton, GA 30525 knc615@windstream.net (706) 782-6954

Since the 1940's!

As I approach my 80th year on this earth, the genesis of our shared sport is a rather dim memory, as to the exact point when fishing entered my essential being. It must have been about 8 - 10 years old, and get this, on Atlanta's Peachtree Creek, with a fresh cut cane pole, string, bent safety pin and bait! The lean times of that period shaped the low, or no budget gear, so we "Huckleberry Finned it"! For the next ten years or so, till the store bought gear was acquired as kids jobs came and went. With school/sports/girls as competing interests, bait casting, spin, and finally the 9 ft."H" cane bass rod, were added. I explored the many private home/golf course ponds, within biking distance of Buckhead (invited or not!) Regardless of what else this outdoor guy had to do, there was always time for the seasonal pursuit of game/fish, usually on a learn-as-you-go basis, with buddies equally as broke and unskilled (often missing the real value of sharing a love of God's creations!)

In my teen years, I joined the Isaac Walton League, met older experienced fishermen, and in my junior year of college (GA State College a.k.a Atlanta Division) in Atlanta, was hired on as a salesman with the pre-immanent sporting goods company in the

city - Walthour & Hood. There my co-workers/customer base included the social/sporting elite of the South, including John Martin, Charles Elliot, Everett Roach (names you may not recognize, but were a part of early TV, publishing, and reporting, thru magazines, and the outdoor happenings on a regional and national level). In addition, they were willing to share time and their knowledge, which I was lacking!

To fast forward a little, there was graduation, military service during the Korean war that had me stationed on the St. Johns river near Jacksonville (N.A.S. Jax.), followed by two years as manager of a fishing lodge on the Homossasa River in S.W. Fla. There salt water/river fishing was added to my experiences! Always there was an interest in moving water, and cold water fisheries, that was satisfied in a mostly self taught manner and held my interest through retirement in 1989!

Since that date, and after a move to North GA, the way has opened up to completely scratch that itch that defines our sport, and expand, at the age of 70, into a little amateur fly casting competition and environmental pay back. Also the opportunity to be able to pass on to the newbies I encounter, some of the intrinsic values that have been exposed to me over the years, ever since that first "TUG!"

To All: Thanks for sharing.....it's a great voyage, Rocketroy (a.k.a. Roy Lowe – Foothills TU Chap Member, Clarkesville, GA)

Editor's Notes: *Thanks to you, Roy, for "Passing it on!"*

Fishing Report



Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2009

Subject: Why I Love November

Well, the Chattahoochee has been blown out about every week, so what's a man to do? Go saltwater fishing I guess.

Hurricane Ida went northwest of us and the weather ended up being about perfect in the Savannah area all this past week. While ATL was being flooded, we enjoyed relatively calm winds, overcast skies, and very little wind.

Where did we catch 40 reds in four days? Don't believe I said....and yes, we caught them on flies :)

Tight lines,

From: Capt. Kyle (a.k.a. Rabunite Kyle Burrell)

"BACKCASTING"

Nov 4 – 8 (Wed – Sun) Fishing & Camping: We had about 30 who camped at least one night and several more day visitors, including a contingent from the Gold Rush TU Chapter. Several campers traveled over 100 miles to join the group. Weather was great. THE RIVER was beautiful and at a higher level than recent years. Fishing was great. Catching was pretty good. Great meals prepared by Kelly, Rivers, Gentry & Nixon. Injun Frank put up his teepee. A few spontaneous bluegrass music sessions made the hills ring with the sounds of happiness. Campfire tales, some old and some new, were a hit. The ones about Kelly are all true, if you want to believe them. Great fellowship. Wish we could do it more often. Report filed by Larry Walker

Editor's Notes: *Our thanks to Prez Larry for planning and organizing this wonderful outing. It was another Good'un!! WaahWHoo!*



Nov 12 (Thur) Sampling Water in Brook Trout Streams: 3 Rabunite volunteers collected water samples from 4 brook trout streams in Rabun County after a major rain event. The samples are analyzed at the North GA Tech lab for Acid Neutralizing Capacity (ANC). Our thanks to Rabun TU's BTB Stream Sampling project leader, Terry Rivers.

Nov 17 (Tues) Chapter Meeting – 22 attended Rabunite **Dr. Tom Guest**, Bill Kelly's heart doctor, presented his PowerPoint program about the dangers of cardiovascular disease and how to avoid it. One in three Americans will die of a heart disease. The 5 factors that indicate you may be a candidate are (1) blood pressure, (2) body weight, (3) LDL cholesterol, (4) triglycerides & (5) diabetes. The ways to avoid being a candidate are (1) healthy diet, (2) physical activity, (3) avoid tobacco, (4) alcohol only in moderation & (5) dietary supplements. Learn more about the American Heart Association's efforts to reduce death caused by cardiovascular disease [HERE](#). **Scott Laeser**, the National TU expert on climate change, presented a second PowerPoint program. He explained what climate change is and some of the factors that can create climate change. He explained how our coldwater resources could be affected. Most importantly, he indicated some of the ways we as individuals can make a difference. Read more about the concern [HERE](#). Read what you can do [HERE](#). And read how we can help trout survive climate change [HERE](#).
The Meeting raffle had 9 buckets with 2-fly assortments, a book, a landing net, warm socks, local honey, and much more. The raffle raised \$109 to be used toward the cost of mailing newsletters to members without E-mail and for the meeting hospitality expenses. Thanks to Terry Rivers for handling meeting raffles. A BIG "Thank You" goes to all the Rabunites who donated the items and to everyone who purchased raffle tickets.

Nov 24 (Tues) BOD Meeting – 12 participated. **Some agenda items included: Recaps** – Mentoring at Rabun County Middle School; Brookie Stream Sampling; November Campout **Updates** – Chattooga Boating Zoning; LWCF status of budget process; GA Wildlife Fed Funding for Lobbying; Dream Trip Raffle 2010; 2010 Rabun Rendezvous planning; Redesign Website; Membership Retention Plan; Chapter Lending Library News; 2010 Campers Application Deadline on 1/11/2010; Donations to Other Chapters; 12/5 GA TU Council Meeting; 12/6 UCTUC "hunter's fest" Fundraiser 5 PM in Roswell; 12/8 Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner; 1/12 BOD Meeting at RE/MAX; 1/19 & 2/16 Chapter Meeting Programs; 2/6 Annual Planning Breakfast at the Dillard House
New Business – 12/5 Benefit Concert for the Stekoa Creek City Park Project; BTB Funding for 2010 **Updates** – Publicity; Membership; Treasury Report:

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are happy to report that **Terry Rivers** is again hiking into the backcountry after his recent "knee fixes." Happy 20th birthday, **Pat Gorman** (12/6)! Just think about all the trout fishing memories yet to be made, young man. We wish **David Nichols** of Tate City a speedy and complete recovery from his recent illness. We offer our condolences to **Doug and Sheila Mansfield** on the recent death of his father, William Arnold Mansfield.

THANK YOU

Ralph and Sandy Morgan, St. Marys GA, for a cash donation.
June Landreth, Rabun Gap GA, for donation of material goods.
Emily Perry, Tiger GA, for a cash donation.
Donna Scafiti, Tiger GA, for a cash donation.
Eedee Adams, Rabun Gap GA, for donation of material goods.
Atlanta Fly Fishing Club <http://atlantaflyfishingclub.org/>, Atlanta GA, for a cash donation.

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

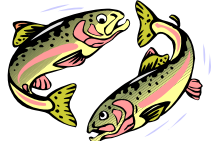
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thanks for re-upping: **Travis Barnes, David Lash, Tom Matthews, John Starinchuck, Chris Whitley, Tom Guest, Jeff Durniak, Neil Anderson, Dean English, Wayne Gibson, Kevin Lash, Steve McCall, Tom Nixon, Julie Kilby & Mike Hamilton**

It is time to renew your membership: **Brooks & Amanda Adams, Chuck Breithaupt, Ron Grob, Jerry Webb, Peggy Crowe, Lonnie English, Walter Godfrey, Charles Jenkins, Chelsea Adams, Nancy Gribble, Billy McClain, Hal Avery, Randal Corbin, Sidney Doster, Joe Gatins, Reb Hester, Doug Hickman, Joe Kitchens, Walt Landreth & Thomas Stroud**

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 recruitment & Youth outreach)	Ph 706 782 4978	E-mail scotts_creek58@yahoo.com
Treasurer - Doug Adams (w/Newsletter, BOD Agenda, Rendezvous, Reports & 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/Mtg refreshments)	Ph 706 782 9913	E-mail raykearns@windstream.net
Director thru F/Y 2010: Bill Kelly (w/Mtg Programs & Picnic)	Ph 706 746 2104	E-mail bkjk1@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/Member retent, 101, Library & Mtg 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



Letter From The Chapter President

Fellow Rabunites,

Do you remember who took you fishing the first time? Well, maybe you can't remember the very first time, but for most of us, someone took us fishing when we were young, and we became hooked.

Or, perhaps after you became an adult, someone introduced you to trout fishing in special places that have become very special to you. In either case, or in both, we are fortunate that someone cared enough about us to introduce us to this sport of fishing.

Chances are, this introduction to the "sport" of fishing has led you to a greater love and appreciation of the outdoors. Chances are, this love of the outdoors has led you to learn and understand more about caring for our natural resources. Chances are, you've made a difference; to someone else by introducing them to fishing and to our natural resources through donations and support of organizations such as Trout Unlimited.

It's no coincidence that this introduction to fishing leads people to caring about and for our coldwater resources. It's a pretty strong cause and effect.

So, if you want to increase the awareness and concern for our great sport, take someone fishing; preferably a kid; but maybe an adult. Then, you can watch with pride as the cause, effect and benefits take place again; maybe even after you've caught your last fish.

Regards, Larry Walker

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

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