



TIGHT LINES

January 2011 Newsletter of the Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited

Editor – Doug Adams edadams1@windstream.net

Visit the Rabun TU website: <http://rabuntu.org/site/>

"I have fished through fishless days that I remember happily and without regret." Roderick Haig-Brown

RABUN TU CHAPTER'S MEETING PLACE

New RE/MAX Office, Clayton, GA

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.

"I doubt not, that the use of the fly among the mountains, or wherever the trout are found, is nearly as old as the first knowledge that trout were delicate eating." Rev. George W. Bethune, notes to The Complete Angler

Happy New Season!

"FORWARD CASTING" Important Dates – See you there!

Jan 10 (Mon) Deadline for 2010 Trout Camper applications.

Jan 11 (Tues) BOD Meeting 6:30 PM, RE/MAX Office.

Jan 18 (Tues) Chapter Meeting 6:30 PM, RE/MAX Office

Program: Jeff Durniak – *"Winter Trouting Tips"*

Jan 22 (Sat) 24th Annual Rabun Rendezvous, 5 PM 'til

Program: Rabunite Kyle Burrell, Trout Fishing Guide in GA & WY

Feb 1 (Tues) Annual Chattooga Coalition Meeting, 9 AM, USFS Office, Andrew Pickens Office in SC

Feb 5 (Sat) Annual Planning Meeting 8 AM Breakfast at Dillard House

Feb 15 (Tues) Chapter Meeting 6:30 PM, RE/MAX Office **Program: TBD**

Feb 19 & 20 (Sat & Sun) Fly Fishing Weekend at Bass Pro Shops,

Volunteers needed – Contact Terry Rivers, Ph 706 782 7419, E-mail

tlr1121@windstream.net

Feb 22 (Tues) BOD Meeting 6:30 PM, RE/MAX Office

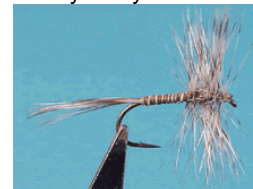
2011 Rabunite 101 (1/2-day fly-fishing workshop) – Sat. AM, April 2nd

2011 GA Trout Camp; June 5th – 10th

Volunteer mentors needed for both

FLY OF THE MONTH

by Terry Rivers



MOSQUITO

SOME MOSQUITOS ARE CONSIDERED MIDGES BECAUSE THEY ARE NON-BITING. THAT IS WHAT YOU MOSTLY SEE DURING WINTER HATCHES. MOST OF THESE HATCHES ARE IN THE 18/20 SIZES, SO HAVE A FEW IN YOUR BOX IN THAT SIZE RANGE. "SEE YA ON THE RIVER"

HOOK: 14/20 DRY FLY HOOK

TAIL: GRIZZLY BARBS

THREAD: GRAY 8/0

BODY: GRAY THREAD OR GRAY DUBBING

PALMERED WITH SILVER WIRE

THORAX: GRIZZLY PALMERED

WINDS: GRIZZLY HACKLE TIPS

"There is one absolutely sure sign when midge fly-fishing must be done, and that is when you see a trout strike at the knot in the leader instead of the fly. Knots are about the same size as the smaller midges. If ever you see this happen, just put on a midge and have some real fun for awhile." The Field & Stream Treasury of Trout Fishing by Leonard M. Wright, Jr.,

JANUARY HATCHES

The Bugs

None at all

Time of Month

All Month

Time of Day

All Day

Suggested Flies

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

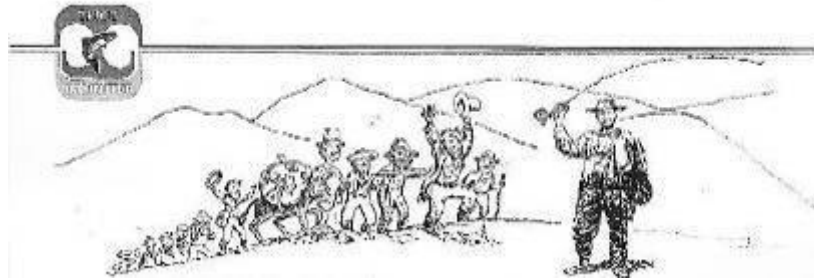
All Month

All Day

18-22 Griffith's Gnat

18-22 Midge Pupa (Brassie, Zebra Midge, etc)

To view a Hatch Chart for other months, click [Hatch Chart](#)



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

Please Join Us for the 24th 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 22, 2011

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 - Rabunite Kyle Burrell, trout fishing guide in GA & WY, sharing photos and tales of memorable experiences.

Cost: \$30 for adults and \$25 for youth of 15 and under. Cash, personal checks, VISA or 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 rooms starting at \$49 (plus tax) for those that 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 2010 Rabun Rendezvous provided funds for the following: GA Trout Camp for youth; Sponsorship of student interns working in NE GA fisheries with the GA WRD and the USFS; Sponsoring two youngsters attending the GA Trout Camp; Financial support of the GA DNR Smithgall Woods Conservation Education Program; GA "Back-the-Brookie" Program; Kid's Fishing Events at Black Rock Mountain State Park (GA DNR) & Tallulah River (USFS); Stekoa Creek clean-up day, In-stream habitat improvement workday with USFS on a Rabun County brook trout stream, Fly Fishing for Vets Wounded Warriors Program; Stop I-3 Coalition; Georgia Wildlife Federation's Camo Coalition, EarthShare of GA, National TU's "First Cast", "Embrace-A-Stream", & "Southeast Land Protection Coordinator" Programs; Design of Rabun TU's award winning website; and Trout Magazine subscriptions to 4 school & public libraries and 3 state parks in Rabun County

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 2011 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 (wood working, fishing flies, etc), a campout with fishing, a day of lake fishing, a day of deer hunting on a lease, a day of wild turkey hunting, vacations, golf packages, raft trips, weekend use of mountain cabins or condos at beach, 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.



Do you want to learn to tie flies?

If so, Terry Rivers is offering to give free instructions in tying flies during February and March on Thursday evenings starting at 6 pm till ??

Contact Terry for more information:
Ph 706 782 7419 E-mail tlr1121@windstream.net



Rabun TU's Award Winning website <http://rabuntu.org/site/> !

'Website Page-of-the-Month': <http://rabuntu.org/site/youth/trout-camp/>

Georgia Trout Camp

Trout Camp brochure [available here](#) (pdf download)

Please send comments & suggestions to Pat Hopton, Website Project Manager, scotts_creek58@yahoo.com

Site Design by [Allison O. Adams, Editorial and Multimedia Services](#)

Last chance to make an application for the 2011 Georgia Trout Camp

Deadline to apply: January 10, 2011

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 5 (Sunday) - June 10 (Friday); **Cost:** \$450 per camper (financial aid is available)

Includes room, board, and all activities for the five-day camp.

Instructions: Applications must be completed and turned in to Rabun Chapter by 1/10/2011. (Campers must be within the ages of 12 – 15 at time of camp) Information and application forms are available on the Council website <http://georgiatu.org/> Mail applications to: Rabun TU, PO Box 371, Clayton, GA 30525. Rabun Chapter will select 2 campers from the applicants to sponsor.

Each of the 13 chapters in Georgia has spots to fill and each chapter decides how they want to select their campers. Once a chapter chooses a camper, 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

Letters to the Rabunites

Sent: US Postal 11/16/2010

To: Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Thank you for supporting Upper Chattahoochee Trout Unlimited's Autumn on the River Banquet and Silent Auction with a generous gift of a Broderick Crawford framed print – "One for The Creel". With the help of supporters like you, we will continue to advance our mission of conserving, protecting and restoring Georgia's cold water fisheries and watersheds through stream projects, education and advocacy. You helped make this year's event a success.

From: Kevin F. McGrath – President UCTUC

Sent: US Postal

To: Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Thank you for helping us make a cleaner and greener Georgia by supporting EarthShare of Georgia. As Georgia's only dedicated environmental fund, EarthShare of Georgia of Georgia supports over 60 leading environmental groups who are finding

and promoting solutions for energy conservation, wildlife preservation, clean air and clean water.

From: www.earthsharega.org

Editor's notes: Rabun TU's BOD made a onetime donation of \$100 earmarked for GA Trout Unlimited.

Sent: Thursday, November 25, 2010

Subject: Re: TIGHT LINES December 2010 Newsletter

I write an outdoor column for the Anderson Independent Mail newspaper, the Travelers Rest Tribune as well as a couple of blogs. I wanted to compliment you on the content of the Rabun TU Newsletter. The article by Mrs. Lewis-Gentry was a great Thanksgiving story. Also, the reference to "Fishing the Edges" by Charles Waterman was excellent. This also applies to hunting, as game animals like transition zones or "edges". Keep up the good work. If you ever have something that you would like to share with me for publication, let me know. Best regards and happy Thanksgiving,

From: L. Woodrow Ross - www.UpstateHuntandFish.com

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

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

This issue has been over 11 years in the Forest Service planning process. It has been 28 months since the last public comment period closed and the Forest Service has not released a new decision, *instead* they have re-initiated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Meanwhile the status quo (no boating) continues on the North Fork as the boaters' second lawsuit is proceeding to a court trial.

Forest Service officials announced on December 9th that they have re-initiated the NEPA process on recreation uses on the upper Chattooga River (North Fork) by scoping a proposed action. The agency is asking for any new information, such as recently released articles or publications or new concerns, that should be incorporated into the analysis or be part of the decision-making process. See the NEPA scoping letter: [HERE](#)

"The most important thing we want people to know is that re-initiating the NEPA process does not mean we're starting over," said Paul Bradley, forest supervisor for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. "Any information submitted to the agency between 2005 and 2009 will be considered in the decision-making process and used to establish standing for appeals. That's why we're asking folks to send any new information and not to resubmit any previously made comments."

"More specifically, we are asking for new information on proposed management actions that would allow for boating opportunities above S.C. Highway 28, use separation strategies to mitigate conflict, and establish visitor use capacities to manage use during peak-use times of the year," emphasized Bradley. "We're also seeking any new details on management actions that would limit overnight camping to designated campsites and incorporate adaptive management measures that will help us maintain desired use levels."

In August 2009, the three forest supervisors in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia issued decisions selecting Alternative 4 in the Environmental Assessment (EA) titled Managing Recreation Uses on the Upper Chattooga River (North Fork). These decisions emphasized year-round, high-quality trout fishing while providing boating opportunities on the main stem upper Chattooga River (North Fork). The agency withdrew those decisions last December when inconsistencies were discovered between the Biological Evaluation/Biological Assessment and the Decision Notices. Additional information can be found [HERE](#).

"We've been busy since the last set of decisions was withdrawn," said Bradley. "We have been not only reviewing our documents for accuracy, but also conducting additional analysis and considering other information such as recent scientific literature and court rulings."

Editor's notes: *What the Forest service doesn't want or need is for people to "E-copy" what they sent before and send it again. The agency is seeking "new information" and new ideas for management strategies since your previous comments.*

Concerning individual comments, the first thing that comes to my mind that is new (that we didn't have in the last comment period 28 months ago) is the real time and historical information from the Burrell's Ford USGS on-line gauge ([HERE](#)) and how that information (level, flow & temperature) is used by you as a visitor.

Can you think of any other new information, new or better strategies for zoning boaters to avoid visitor conflicts, a method to enhance backcountry solitude or a better strategy for managing backcountry camping?

Hard copy comments may be mailed to the Chattooga Planning Team, U.S. Forest Service, 4931 Broad River Road, Columbia, S.C. 29212. Electronic comments should be e-mailed to comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us . All submitted comments will become part of the project record and available for public review. The agency is asking that any new information be e-mailed or postmarked no later than January 24, 2011.

The Forest Service is required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) and the Wilderness Act to zone and manage the river corridor for the protection and enhancement of backcountry values of solitude and remoteness (some of the values which caused the Chattooga to be included in the WSRA) for present and future generations who visit the backcountry river by foot. The agency's previous preferred alternative (#4) would accomplish this by zoning boating access in only 21-miles of the 57-miles long Chattooga River by section of stream, by time of year, by water level (flow), and by type of craft. There is absolutely nothing in the WSRA that says all compliant activities must be permitted in all segments of the river. To maintain the quality of experience for all visitors and/or protect riparian resources, zoning of public recreational waters is absolutely necessary now and in the future. Zoning ensures that different and conflicting types of users are physically separated. Zoning is a time tested, fair, and legal land and water management practice. Zoning of conflicting activities is good stewardship.



Below is a condensed version of the steps that got us here:

- (Oct 18, 1999)** Clemson, SC – At a Forest Service (FS) planning meeting the boaters were demanding access to the last 21-miles of the 57-mile long Wild & Scenic Chattooga River.
- (July 3, 2003)** Public comment period closes for the boating zoning issue for the new Forest Plan.
- (Jan 15, 2004)** Atlanta, GA - The FS issues the new Forest Plan continuing the zoning of the Chattooga North Fork upstream of the Highway 28 Bridge for foot travel only (no boating).
- (April 15, 2004)** Boaters file an appeal with the FS to allow "year-round access for self-guided groups of non-commercial, non-motorized canoeists and kayakers" to float the Chattooga North Fork.
- (April 29, 2005)** Washington, DC - The Chief of the Forest Service rules on the boaters' appeal and instructs the forest to conduct additional analyses regarding social and natural resource impacts to the North Fork and to involve affected user groups. The no boating decision made in the Forest Plan will remain in effect during the additional analysis.
- (Oct 13, 2005)** Walhalla SC - The FS conducts the first public meeting for the additional analysis of the boating zoning issue.

(May 18, 2006) Gainesville, GA – The boaters file a complaint in federal court against the FS. The suit seeks to overturn the 30-year old zoning allowing immediate and unregulated boating access (any number of boats, anytime, any water level)

(Oct 6, 2006) Gainesville, GA – Court dismisses the boater's lawsuit. Senior U.S. District Judge William C. O'Kelley issued a 20-page opinion to throw out the lawsuit that sought to immediately open the North Fork to unregulated boating access. In part, the decision said, *"The court can think of no greater waste of time and effort than to proceed to consider the merits of this action, --" "Simply having to litigate this action diverts personnel away from the study, and the court's opening the Headwaters to unanticipated users would certainly substantially interfere with the agency's ability to conduct its visitor use capacity analysis."*

The Judge concluded, *"Judicial resources should not be wasted on such fleeting relief, especially where, as here, the court has found that judicial intervention would inappropriately interfere with ongoing agency efforts, that the court would benefit from further factual development, and that plaintiffs would suffer little, if any, hardship from the delay."*

Frankly, no party, including those not before the court, would be served by a "temporary" decision from this court. A floater should be able to easily determine whether he can float on a given part of the Chattooga River without worry of fine. Likewise, a fisherman should know whether he will have to cast around floaters while enjoying the quiet solitude of the Headwaters. The possibility that this court could reach a decision opening the Headwaters, thereby overriding thirty years of agency policy, only to have that decision superseded by a valid amended revised management plan less than a year later counsels in favor of judicial restraint. The law ought not be seen as so whimsical, and although there are circumstances where justice demands that a court intervene despite the real possibility of its decision being immediately overridden, those circumstances are not present here."

(Aug 18, 2008) The DRAFT Environmental Analysis (EA) public comment period closes. Almost 3000 public comments on the DRAFT EA were received; about 500 on the last day. The FS says the final decision will be released in Dec. 2008.

(Aug 26, 2009) Columbia, SC - After considering the public comments, preparing responses to those comments and reviewing the final analysis, the FS selects Alternative 4. Boating will be allowed from December through February when the flow at Burrell's Ford is above 450cfs. No boating will be permitted between Burrell's Ford and Highway 28 Bridge or in the North Fork tributaries. Also the Forest Plan does not allow mountain bikes, ATVs, horseback riding or pack animals in the North Fork corridor.

(Oct 14, 2009) Greenville, SC - The boaters take the FS to Federal Court – AGAIN. The boaters' complaint challenges the FS decision because they say it imposes limits on boating while allowing "artificially" increased angling use and inequitably allowing all other recreation uses in the river corridor to occur in unlimited numbers (actually, no recreation is allowed that uses a vehicle).

(Oct 26, 2009) Atlanta, GA - The Southern Region of the FS granted Georgia ForestWatch's "stay" request. As a result, the status quo is preserved on the North Fork (no boating) until a decision is finalized on each of the five appeals.

(Dec 21, 2009) Columbia, SC - The decision, Alternative 4 which emphasized year-round high-quality trout fishing while providing boating opportunities on the Chattooga North Fork, was withdrawn to allow for additional analysis. As a result, the status quo is preserved (no boating) until the forests in GA, SC & NC issue 3 new decisions, which the FS expected to be the spring of 2010.

(Dec 30, 2009) Greenville, SC - Concerning the boater's pending lawsuit, the FS filed a motion to dismiss.

(Feb 5, 2010) The boaters issued a 31-page memorandum in opposition to dismissal to which the FS responded on 2/16.

(June 8, 2010) Columbia, SC – *"When we (the FS) are prepared to release new, sound, reasoned decisions based on the very best information and analysis, we will let stakeholders, the public and media know. Once the final decisions are made, we will ensure that the decision is implemented in a timely and efficient manner."*

(Oct 13, 2010) Greenville, SC - U.S. District Judge Michelle Childs heard arguments in the case brought by plaintiffs (boaters) who want immediate and unrestricted access to the last 21 miles of the Chattooga and the defendant (FS) who is required by the WSRA to protect and enhance the values which caused the Chattooga to be included in the WSRA (such as solitude and remoteness).

(Dec 2, 2010) Greenville, SC – Conclusion issued by the Judge: Defendants' (Forest Service's) Motion to Dismiss and Interveners' (private property owners') Amended Motion to Dismiss are DENIED. Plaintiffs' (boaters') Motion for Preliminary Injunction and Plaintiffs' related Motion for Reconsideration of Temporary Restraining Order are also DENIED. The status quo (no boating) continues on the North Fork and the case will proceed to trial.

(Dec 9, 2010) Atlanta GA - FOREST SERVICE SEEKS NEW INFORMATION ON RECREATION USES ON UPPER CHATTOOGA RIVER (North Fork) A 45-day comment period re-initiates National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The agency is asking that any new information be e-mailed or postmarked no later than January 24, 2011.

Fishing Report

Subject: Fishing Report; **Date:** 11/20/10;

Location: Chattooga River; **Water Temperature:** 40 – 45; **Weather:** Cool

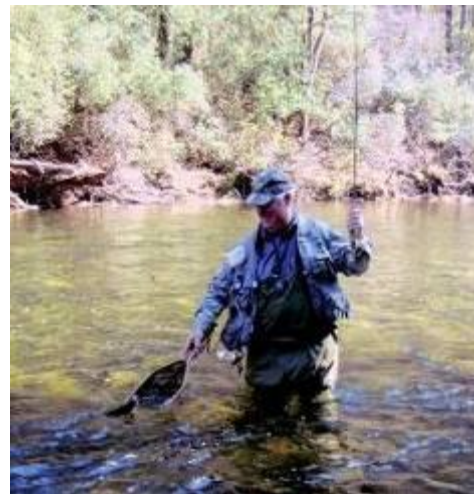
It was a cool and clear day and the forecast was perfect. Dredger asked me to join him on this trip with two other guys and was I excited. We were going to the Chattooga, "THE RIVER" in some circles.

We walked one half mile to the hole I had picked to start in but it was occupied. One quarter mile further got us in the first hole. Jeff put me in the sweet spot and I tied on a Wooly Bugger with a Prince behind. I got two strikes then my first fish of the day. Dredger figured them out and soon put on an egg followed by a prince and this proved to be the ticket. We got quite a few before we moved on.

It was hit and miss all the way up river until the last hole. After giving us a few fish this hole slowly dried up and an hour before dark we contemplated it was over. Then I tried an egg trailed by a soft hackle and like magic that was the key. Ten to twelve fish and suddenly it was dark and time to go.

What a wonderful day in a special place. The fishing was great and the catching also was not bad today. As I sat on the bank I thought about the beauty and serenity all around me. Today was a reunion with an old friend, the Chattooga.

From: Ray Gentry – A Rabunite



"Catchin' Corner" - Troutng Tips

The following article is reprinted with permission from the Fly Shack Newsletter <http://www.flyshack.com/>

The Midge: a Fly for When the Snow Flies

Does no hatch mean no fishing? Certainly not. From streamers to egg patterns, from attractors to terrestrials, there are ways to find and catch trout in the absence of hatching mayflies or caddis. Still, we are fly-fishers, and one of the things we miss most during the winter is flies. So thank goodness for midges.

These little bugs - some of which aren't all that little, actually - are active in all but the coldest weather, and serve as major a source of food for trout. Most of the action is sub-surface, as you may expect, but if you're in the right place at the right time, you may even find trout rising to hatching midges in December, January or February.



The right place is almost always flat, slow-moving pools. The right time is a windless day when both air and water temperatures climb up into the balmy 30s or 40s. It doesn't happen every week. If you're there when it does, say a prayer of thanks to the fishing gods, add some 6X tippet to your leader, tie on your favorite floating midge pattern and savor the experience.

Midges spend most of their lives (up to seven years in polar regions) as slender, segmented larvae. They go through a brief pupal phase, hatch at or near the surface and fly off to live brief lives as winged insects, just like mayflies and caddis. There are many species and they are widely distributed. In many waters, including many trout streams, they are by far the most numerous insect, not just in the winter but all year 'round.

On the chance that you might luck into hatching midges and rising trout, it pays to have a basic assortment of dry flies among your winter tackle. Simple flies will usually do. Patterns such as the Midge Dry, with a tail, body and hackle, will imitate midges effectively; you can probably get away with two colors, gray and cream, and two or three sizes, starting at 18 and going as small as you dare. Small versions of the same Adamses and Elk-Hair

Caddis you use the rest of the year can work too, but they should be light and sparse. While riding along the surface, midges keep their two long wings flat along their backs, but as they hatch or struggle to get airborne, there is much fluttering and the wings spend considerable time upright. So you can use either down-wing or up-wing flies. Most midge anglers don't worry about wings on their flies; a collar of hackle will simulate legs and wings well enough.

Of course, the king of the midge dry-fly patterns is the Griffith's Gnat, and for good reason: it's a super effective fly. It may not look exactly like the midge on the water, but it must look like a good bug to eat. Various body colors are available and all are effective at one time or another, but there seems to be a special mojo about the original peacock herl and grizzly hackle formula.

As during the rest of the year, rises during a wintertime hatch may actually indicate that fish are feeding just below the surface, not on it. That is, they're taking emergers, not dries. This calls for small soft-hackle wet flies. A Soft-Hackle Hare's Ear, Partridge and Green or Partridge and Yellow may connect you with trout.

As noted, rising trout are the exception, not the rule, in winter. Most of the time, you will arrive at your river to find the flat pools smooth and undisturbed. That's OK - we winter anglers know we're probably going to end up nymphing. But knowing that midges live in your river - and even if there's not a full-blown hatch, you'll usually see at least a few flying around - will empower you to nymph with confidence, knowing your fly looks much like the food trout have been eating every day for weeks.

If the Griffith's Gnat is the classic midge dry, the classic nymph is the Brassie. But many more great patterns have been developed over the years: consider having the Serendipity, the WD40 or the Zebra Midge at your disposal. Even a small, skinny Hare's Ear or Copper John may do the trick. Fish them patiently, near the bottom, under a strike indicator, and be alert for subtle takes. Since trout aren't moving much in the winter, you have to. Cover as much water as you can.

Truth be told, we would probably all catch more trout if we fished midges more often in the spring, summer and fall. Fat chance - most of us are addicted to mayflies and forget about every other bug in the world at the first dun sighting.

In the winter, however, it's midges that are hatching and putting the fish on the feed. So it's midges we will fish.

Editor's Notes: Look at this video [HERE](#). For more info about midges, click <http://www.troutnut.com/hatch/887/True-Fly-Chironomidae-Midges#specimens>

Rabun TU Lending Library News



The library includes over 100 books, audios and videos about fishing, fly tying, and other topics of interest.

To see the lists of items in the Library, click on: <http://rabuntu.org/site/about/educational-programs/chapter-lending-library/>

The library is available for Rabun Chapter members and guests. To check out a book, audio or video from the library, first contact Charlie Breithaupt at knc615@windstream.net. Tell him what book or video you wish to check out. At the next monthly Chapter meeting Charlie will bring that book or video to you.

You must come to the Chapter meeting to get the book or video!

For more information, contact Charlie, the Chapter Librarian. Ph 706 782 6954 E-mail knc615@windstream.net

We are hoping to grow the library with additional books and videos on fishing, camping, outdoor skills, conservation, etc.

Watch TIGHT LINES for "Lending Library News" when additional items are added.

Do you have a book, book on tape or CD, video tape, or DVD that you would donate to the Chapter Library?

All donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501c3 non-profit) are tax deductible.

What's New Elsewhere?

Pavement sealant identified as major water pollutant By Renee Schoof, McClatchy Newspapers (12/5/2010) Washington DC -- A black sealant sprayed on parking lots, driveways and playgrounds turns out to be the largest contributor to the rise of a toxic pollutant in urban lakes and reservoirs across America, according to a U.S. Geological Survey study. Scientists saw concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) going up rapidly in the 1990s in areas of urban sprawl. PAHs have been known as a probable human carcinogen since the 19th century, when cancer struck chimney sweeps, said Peter Van Metre, a USGS scientist and a principal author of the report. PAHs also are toxic to fish and other aquatic plant and animal life. An alternative sealant, an asphalt-emulsion-based one, has PAH levels about 1,000 times lower. Read more: [HERE](#)

Editor's Notes: Last July fresh sealant washed into Hodges Creek in Boone NC resulted in a fish kill. While most folks know not to apply right before it rains, this study shows there is a long-term effect. Think about all the parking lots in our Stekoa Creek watershed! Our thanks to John Eichorn of Triangle Fly Fishers <http://triangleflyfishers.org/> for providing the "heads-up" on this issue.



USFS-GA Chattooga River District Ranger Dave Jensen announces retirement With 39 years and 5 months of service time, Dave Jensen will retire January 1st. Dave came here in August 1988 on a 2-3 year plan and stayed for 22 years. He started with the Forest Service on the San Juan NF in CO. From there he went to the Medicine Bow NF (WY) then to the Black Hills NF (SD) before coming to Rabun County. Dave has been the District Ranger here longer than any other person, including Roscoe "Ranger Nick" Nickolson and Earl "Preach" Parsons. Dave says he "plan to get back into fishing and hunting now with daughters grown and no job to go to."

Editor's Notes: Congratulations, Dave! Coming from a person who has been retired for over 14 years, I'm sure you will quickly get adjusted to the change.

USFS-GA Land Exchange Finalized Between Rabun County and U.S. Forest Service (10/19/2010) Gainesville: An eight million dollar land exchange was finalized this month between the U.S. Forest Service and Rabun County. This exchange, which added almost 300 acres to national forest land in Georgia, was five years in the making and involved eight individual parcels of land and two branches of county government along with the U.S. Forest Service. For more info & maps, click [HERE](#)

USFS-SC Burrell's Ford Campground temporary CLOSURE Contractors are renovating the Burrell's Ford Campground and it is expected that the project work will be completed by January 15, 2011. For your safety, please do not enter the campground during this time. If you wish to hike downstream, use the Foothills Trail around the campground, which can be accessed at the campground parking lot located ¼ mile east of the Chattooga River. Call the Andrew Pickens Ranger District at 864-638-9568 for more information.



WaysSouth is proud to announce a newly redesigned website. With a cleaner and more readable look, easier navigation, and expanded content, the new waysouth.org is a great resource to help in accomplishing the following Mission: *WaysSouth works to preserve and protect the unique heritage and environment of the Southern Appalachians by promoting sustainable transportation practices.*

Keep up to date on the following two important water quality issues in the land of the Rabunites:

- Stop I-3 <http://www.waysouth.org/campaigns/stop-i-3/>
- Provide valuable local input on the future of U.S. Highway 441 <http://www.waysouth.org/campaigns/u-s-441/>

Editor's Notes: Supporting organizations of WaysSouth include the Rabun TU Chapter and the GA TU Council. To see a complete list of supporting organizations, click [HERE](#). The new WaysSouth website was designed by the same person that designed the award winning Rabun TU website, Rabunite Allison Adams [Allison O. Adams, Editorial and Multimedia Services.](#)

"Catchin' Corner" - Troutng Tips

Q & A

Q. I know a lot of trout anglers carry thermometers, but just what does the water temperature tell them?

A. It gives an idea of what the angler may need to do:

- 40°F & below - Tough. Bring a ton of sinkers, and a camera to shoot scenery.
 - Mid 40's & dropping* - Still tough. Bring lucky friend who lives on river
 - Rising thru 40's* - Better. Bring optimism
 - In the 50's - Bring a newbie and a camera.
 - 55-62°F - Bring a newbie AND a taxidermist.
 - 62-66°F - Camera will do
 - 67-72°F - Bring a rain dance
 - 72+°F - Bring an iceberg
- (Answer provided by The Dredger)

*A bluebird sky with bright sunshine over a stretch of water running North - South, the solar warming may bring off a Midge &/or Blue Wing Olive (BWO) hatch, even when the water temperature is in the 30s and 40s. *Look at this video* [HERE](#).

The real-time water temperature for the Chattooga River at Burrell's Ford is available on the Internet; click on: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?02176930>

Have you spotted poachers?

Excerpts from NGTO posting: <http://www.georgia-outdoors.com/forum/printthread.php?t=82798>

As unpleasant as it is, you may encounter people fishing illegally, seining, keeping over the creel limit, in Delayed Harvest or special regulation areas using bait and lures that are prohibited, fishing in closed seasonal streams, etc.. Some may simply be unaware. Others may know exactly what they are doing.

Have you spotted poachers?

Note the location and time of day.

Note the physical characteristics of the suspected poachers and their clothing.

If possible, note the color, make and model of their vehicle. If it's really your lucky day, write down their car tag number! If you've been carrying a camera all day to record your trophies, try to get photos of the suspected poachers and their vehicle.

So, now what do you do?

Make the call - Turn In Poachers (TIP) Hotline 1-800-241-4113 or you can [send an e-mail](#) directly to Turn In Poachers to report poachers and polluters.

Plan B: Dredger offers some pointers.

(Gee, ya might think he's done this a time or three!)

As a fellow angler, I'd like to offer another alternative to our reactions to a person who appears to be violating the regulations on the public waters we share. I try to kill 'em with kindness.

If someone is using illegal bait, or even is simply crowding me in "my" honey hole, I reel up, get out of the water and observe them for a while. Then, with a smile, I slowly approach them. If they seem to be comfortable with my approach, I'll speak to them:

"How's it going? Any luck?" I can usually tell their mood and their intent with their first response. A few folks are gruff, self-centered, defensive and may, indeed, be knowing violators. I handle those fine citizens by getting good descriptions (person, act of violation, vehicle tag number) and passing that info along to the proper authorities. We have great conservation rangers and Forest Service LEO's. I know all their names. 'Nuff said here.

More than half of these anglers, however, simply do not know the rules. They were not as fortunate as us to have good mentors who taught us the do's and don'ts of our sport, from the state laws to the unwritten code of angler ethics. Or, in their haste to the promised land, they did not closely read every rule book and every sign along the road or the stream bank. They are, quite simply, blissfully ignorant. They're happy to be away from life's responsibilities and overjoyed to be standing knee-deep in a little bit of heaven.

Can we relate? For those fellow anglers who seem uneducated, I'll approach them further, or wait til they're done and coming up the bank to me. I'll tell them what's working for memos that the conversation is about the fishing. Their stranger defense

shield is usually lowered. Then I'll politely explain the error of their ways, whether it's using bait in an artificial stream, using a treble in a single hook stream, keeping fish in a DH, or invading "my" space in the pool (poor angler etiquette). The vast majority of these individuals usually react with surprise, concern, apology, and gratitude for the info. They say that they "never knew," and, by golly, I think nearly all of them are sincere!

Then I "give" them something to stay in their good graces and to keep our encounter conversational and not confrontational. For bait anglers, I tell them where they can fish with bait and be successful ("fish for the wash-downs below Ami's Hwy 53 bridge and you'll have a blast"). For illegal lure users, I give them a hot fly or two, or pinch the barb for them. For pool-crashers, I give them my pool and move to another (it's a long stream and a big state). I also invite them to look at or join NGTO or TU as a way to get adopted by friends and experts. Those newbie "business cards" are great and I carry several in my vest pocket just for these occasions. And with a few folks who show great potential as do-gooders, I may even invite them to join me astream for a little while.

Most of the time, I've made a new friend. I may have corrected a behavior. I may have helped a struggling wannabe to become an avid angler. I may have even added another troop to our conservation army.

In many of my personal experiences, a little dose of patience and a healthy application of the Golden Rule seem to work. My momma, my best fishing partner in the whole world, always said that "you can catch more flies with honey rather than vinegar." Since many of us are into this "flyfishing" gig these days, I thought her quote was most applicable.

As for me, I would rather make more friends than enemies. I find that when I "give" a little, I usually "receive" much more in return from life. Some of the smiles from ya'll, who have wet a line with me, are indeed priceless. Sometimes, folks, life isn't always about us. It may be about "them." And them folks can end up being part of "us," our friends and allies - - at the Waffle House, in fish camp, on a brook trout project, or at the polls.

Best of luck astream. I hope that this second approach to questionable anglers provides us all with one more tool in our conservation toolbox. Feel free to use any of these legitimate tools, from a free fly to a TIPS call (800-241-4113) as you see fit to enjoy your day, protect your resources, and to keep your conservation team strong into the future.

Life's too short. Get outside and enjoy it. After all, smiles and hooksets are free! Sincerely, Dredger

2011 Dream Trip Raffle for a Fly Fishing Vacation for 2 People!



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 float trip on the Madison River • 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.

For details, click <http://www.georgiatu.org/index.php?mid=news&iid=dream2011&sid=>

Winner will be drawn at the Georgia Foothills Chapter's annual banquet, the "Hoot on the Hooch" in Helen, GA in March 2011. One winner will be drawn and the winner will choose a partner to accompany them on the trip.

Ticket price is \$10 and proceeds will go to the Georgia TU Council to fund Council projects such as the GA Trout Camp for youth and the Back the Brookie campaign. Contact Jimmy Whiten for your raffle tickets: E-mail jimmywhiten@yahoo.com

Know Your Forest: 19th in a series:

Warwoman Wildlife Management Area

Located 5 miles east of Clayton - To view a detail map, click [Warwoman WMA Map](#)

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources maintains various Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) throughout the state, many of which are located in Northeast Georgia. Camping, pre-season scouting, hiking, picnicking, and other recreational uses are allowed year-round, unless otherwise posted at the WMA check station or at a specific recreation site. Horseback riding and bicycling are restricted to open, improved roads, designated trails or designated areas. Horse and bicycle trails and areas may be closed during certain hunting seasons to avoid user conflicts. Specific recreation sites can be closed as needed for management purposes by posting at the site. All WMA visitors are encouraged to wear hunter orange during hunting seasons.

All streams in the Warwoman WMA are trout streams. They include Finney Creek, Tuckaluge Creek, Hoods Creek*, Walnut

Fork Creek* and Sarah's Creek. Note: The trout season in Warwoman WMA is open from the last Saturday in March through October 31 each year

***Artificial Lures Only Streams:** Hoods Creek and its tributaries and Walnut Fork Creek and its tributaries on the Warwoman Wildlife Management Area only artificial lures may be used. It is unlawful to possess any other type of bait on an artificial lures only stream. To review complete GA trout fishing regulations, click <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/node/1307>

An article from Georgia Game & Fish that describes hunting hogs at Warwoman WMA. [HERE](#)

Amenities: 15,800 acres. Hunting, Camping, Fishing, Hiking, Bird Watching and Picnicking

Sent: Friday, December 10, 2010

Subject: Walleye Video

Rabunites, we're trying to get the word out to N GA anglers about this new fishery and its HARVEST opportunities for a feast of "crispy critters" (a.k.a. fried fish). These lakes are in your back yards. Click on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vx39pguTnT4>

From: Jeff "Dredger" Durniak - GA WRD www.gofishgeorgia.com

"BACKCASTING"

Dec 3 (Fri) Mentoring - Middle School Students at Rabun County Recreation Area Pond – Larry Walker & Doug Adams reported 19 kids participated. The fishing was good but the catching wasn't. It was too cold for the fish to play.



Dec 4 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting – 5 Rabun members participated in the annual planning meeting with the USFS and GA WRD. Agenda items included: Call to order; Introductions, roll call, special guests & opening remarks; Special Presentation gifts; Minutes of Sept. 2010 meeting; 2011 Calendar (chapter and council activities, work projects with DNR and USFS); Conservation Easements; Treasurer's Report; 2011 Council budget approval; Teach the Teacher program; Trout Camp 2011; CEI Report; Dream trip ticket sales; Bass Pro Days/Great Southern FF Show at North Atlanta Trade Center Feb. 19 & 20, 2011; Council display project, committee needed; Young of Year award; Chattooga River report; EarthShare news; Julie Stalnaker Memorial; BTB report & Adjournment. Thanks to USFS and Cohutta Chapter for being our hosts today!



Recognition for their service, Charlie (6 yrs-Chm) & Kathy (8yrs-Sec)



Louisa (Sec) & Mack (Chm) lead in preparation of the 2011 Calendar.

Dec 14 (Tues) Annual Family Christmas Dinner – 36 attended this wonderful dinner party. The Dillard House staff outdid themselves again. Our thanks to **June Landreth** for handling the arrangements and finances for this event.



GETTING THINGS READY!



THE FELLOWSHIP WAS WONDERFUL!





THE VARIETY OF THE FAMILY STYLE MEAL WAS OUTSTANDING AND THE SELECTION OF DESSERTS WAS AWESOME!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We wish **Stephen McCall** a speedy and complete recovery from injuries he suffered in an accident on November 24th.

We wish **David F. Nichols** a speedy and complete recovery from his recent illness and hospitalization.

Our Congratulation to **Kathy & Jimmy Harris** upon the occasion of their marriage on November 27th.

Congratulations to **Kyle Burrell, Jim Kidd & Charlie Breithaupt**. They hunt together and all 3 have tagged deer this season.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Big Rabunite "WELCOME" to **5 new members** this month: **MICHEAL N. JONES, SR.**, 217 LANCELOT LOOP, CLAYTON GA 30525; **JACKIE HILL**, 722 WORLEY CREEK RD, LAKEMONT GA 30552; **LARRY JARRETT**, 179 TIMBER CREEK DR, CLAYTON GA 30525; **TOM GRAHAM** (transfer), PO BOX 2249, HIGHLANDS NC 28741-2249; & **LEWIS REEVES, IV** (Stream Explorer), 1074 N GERMANY MOUNTAIN RD, CLAYTON GA 30525

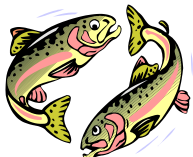
Thanks for re-upping: **Mike Hamilton, Pat Atwater, Ron Robeson, Marie Dunkle, Glenn English, Ron Sharpe, John Starinchuck, Dean English, Joe Gatins, Wayne Gibson, Steve McCall, Tom Nixon, Julie Kilby & Jimmy Whiten.**

It is time to renew your membership: **Neil Anderson, Jack Bates, Doug Hickman, Dwight Millerman, Chuck Breithaupt, James Moore, Larry Peevy, Lewis Reeves III, Gilbert Turner, Russ Burken, Claude McDill, David Smith, Ron Wilson, Brent Escoe, Donna Claridad & Bill Coon**

Notice to Members: At the January Chapter meeting the Rabun Chapter's Board of Directors will nominate **Steve Perry** for Director to fill the unexpired term of **Tony Allred** (Tony was elected Treasurer at the November Chapter meeting). President Walker will call for nominations from the floor prior to conducting the election of the Director.

Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2011

President – Larry Walker (w/Mtg Refreshments, Media, Awards & Budget)	Ph 706 244 4345	E-mail amosndixie@windstream.net
Vice President - Pat Hopton (w/Website, Social Media, NGTO & Rod raffle)	Ph 706 782 4978	E-mail scottscreek58@yahoo.com
Treasurer - Tony Allred (w/Reports & Budgets, Entrance table at R/R)	Ph 706 982 3886	E-mail tallred@inmedgroup.com
Secretary - Ray Gentry (w/Correspondence & Scouts fishing event)	Ph 404 680 6736	E-mail regentry@windstream.net
Past President - Jimmy Whiten (w/Dream Trip Raffle)	Ph 706 886 6546	E-mail jimmywhiten@yahoo.com
Director thru F/Y2011: Kathy Breithaupt (w/101 & Camp)	Ph 706 782 6954	E-mail knc615@windstream.net
Director thru F/Y2011: Charlie Breithaupt (w/101, Camp, Library, Nametags & Mtg host)	Ph 706 782 6954	E-mail knc615@windstream.net
Director thru F/Y2012: Jim Kidd (w/Instream projects & Scouts M/B)	Ph 706 782 2474	E-mail Jikidd@windstream.net
Director thru F/Y2012: Terry Rivers (w/Festivals, BTB, Campout Equip & Mtg Raffles)	Ph 706 782 7419	E-mail tr1121@windstream.net
Director thru F/Y2013: (To be nominated and elected at January Chapter meeting)		
Director thru F/Y2013: Jeff Durniak (w/Mtg Programs & Hosting speaker)	Ph 706 892 6576	
Director thru F/Y2014: Chris Whitley (w/Membership recruitment & retention)	Ph 404 455 3861	E-mail cwhitley@curraheclub.com
Director thru F/Y2014: Frank Tolbert (w/Annual river clean-up, OAD & KFE)	Ph 770 363 1967	E-mail gtolb1@jcpenny.com
Non-voting:		
Newsletter Editor - Doug Adams (w/Newsletter, BOD Agenda & Rendezvous)	Ph 706 746 2158	E-mail edadams1@windstream.net
Any member of Rabun TU may attend the Board of Directors meetings		



Letter From The Chapter President

Fellow Rabunites,

We've just had the annual Christmas dinner at the Dillard House, and it was a great time of fellowship in keeping with the season. I realize it isn't practical for all of you to participate in this event due to logistics, seasonal family priorities, etc., but if you ever get the chance, I hope you will because I believe you will truly enjoy it. Thanks to June Landreth for organizing it.

Two of our most important annual events are coming up. As you have read in other parts of this newsletter, our Rendezvous is fast approaching. If there are any of you reading this that have not been to it before, you are missing a real fun event. Plus, it's the primary fund raising activity for our Chapter. I hope you can come this year. Also, if you have an item that you can donate for the auction, it will be welcome.

Then, a couple weeks or so later, we'll meet at our annual planning breakfast at the Dillard House. This is an important meeting because it is when we decide how we will allocate our financial and physical resources over the coming year to meet our mission of improving the cold water resources of our area. Everyone is welcome. If you have a suggestion about how we should or should not spend our money, come on and share it.

Oh yeah, how about fishing? Been too darn cold for some of us, but I bet there will be a few days this winter when the fishing (and the catching) will be outstanding. Just to be sure you are ready; Jeff (The Dredger) Durniak will present our program in January about cold weather fishing. I bet it will be both entertaining and helpful. Hope you can join us.

I wish for you and yours a great new year.

Best regards, *Larry*

For more pictures, info, and back issues of TIGHT LINES, visit the Rabun TU website: <http://rabuntu.org/site/>

Georgia TU Council website <http://georgiatu.org/>, & National TU Website: <http://www.tu.org/>

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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