



25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

# TIGHT LINES March 2011 Newsletter of the Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited

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

*"It is just possible that nice guys don't catch the most fish.  
But they find far more pleasure in those they do get."* Roderick Haig-Brown

## RABUN TU CHAPTER'S MEETING PLACE

**New RE/MAX Office, Clayton, GA**  
US 441S, just south of MAMA G's restaurant

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

*"Of course, folk fish for different reasons. There are enough aspects of angling to satisfy the aspirations of people remarkably unlike."* Maurice Wiggin

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

**Mar 3 (Thurs) Fly Tying On Thursday Evenings, 6:30 at Kountry Vittles in March**  
Contact Terry Rivers Ph 706 782 7419 E-mail [tlr1121@windstream.net](mailto:tlr1121@windstream.net)

**Mar 5 (Sat) GA TU Council Meeting** 9 AM in Dahlonega

**Mar 12 (Sat) Hoot on the Hooch**, Helen GA with drawing for the 2011 Dream Trip!

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

**Program:** Trudy Johnson of the GA Women Fly Fishers - *Casting for Confidence!* [HERE](#)

**Mar 19 & 20 (Sat & Sun) Pisgah Fly Masters Fly-Fishing Tournament**  
[www.ncwildlife.org/pisgahflymasters](http://www.ncwildlife.org/pisgahflymasters)

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

**Mar 26 (Sat) AM Opening Day for Seasonal Trout Streams in GA**

**Mar 26 (Sat) Evening - Satolah Fire Department Bluegrass & Bar-B-Q**

**Apr 2 (Sat) 8:30 AM Rabunite 101 - Rabun TU's Fly Fishing School for Adults:** Rabun County Recreation Center A half-day fly-fishing for trout seminar for adults (male and female age 16 years and older) @ \$30/person. The seminar will cover equipment, casting, knots and entomology; lunch is included. To attend or to volunteer to help, contact Charlie Breithaupt. Ph 706 782 6954 E-mail [knc615@windstream.net](mailto:knc615@windstream.net)

**Apr 9 (Sat) AM Fly Fishing For Vets Outing**, For more info, click [HERE](#)

**Apr 9 (Sat) Evening - Oconee River TU Chapter Fundraiser** in Athens  
<http://www.orctu.org/Home.html>

**Apr 15 & 16 (Fri & Sat) Rabun TU's Campout Fri Night with Workday Sat Morning for BtB** with Jim Kidd & USFS leading work on North Fork Moccasin Creek and camping beside the Wildcat Creek Road. w/ FHTUC, C-NTUC & TWTUC For more info, contact Jim Kidd - Ph 706 782 2474 E-mail [Jikidd@windstream.net](mailto:Jikidd@windstream.net)

**Apr 19 (Tues) Chapter Meeting** 6:30 PM, RE/MAX Office. **Program:** Jimmy Harris of Unicoi Outfitters - *The June Fly Fishing Festival in Helen*

**Apr 26 (Tues) BOD Meeting**, 6:30 PM, RE/MAX Office

**Apr 30 & May 1 (Sat & Sun) Celebrate Clayton**

**2011 GA Trout Camp; June 5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>** Volunteer mentors needed.

## FLY OF THE MONTH

by Terry Rivers



**GIRDLE BUG**

THIS IS A GREAT STIMULATOR TO HAVE WHEN THINGS SLOW DOWN. IT HAS BEEN HAVING GREAT SUCCESS ON THE DH STREAMS THIS WINTER. FISH THIS AS A WET FLY, NYMPH OR DRY - WHATEVER WORKS FOR YOU.

**HOOK:** #8/12 STREAMER HOOK 2X LONG

**TAIL & ANTENNA:** WHITE RUBBER LEGS

**LEGS:** WHITE RUBBER LEGS

**BODY:** BLACK CHENILLE 2 STRANDS IF NOT WEIGHTED

*"I fish because I love to; because I love the environs where Trout are found, which are invariably beautiful - - Because in the woods I can find solitude without loneliness. - - and, finally not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important, but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant and not nearly so much fun."*

Excerpts from Anatomy of a Fisherman by Robert Traver

## March Hatches

*Happy New Dry Fly Season – Waaaaah WHOooooo!*

The Bugs	Time of Month	Time of Day	Suggested Flies
None at all	All Month	All Day	Dredging Nymphs: 12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, PT
Early Black Stone	All Month	L am to M pm	16-18 Black Elk-hair Caddis or Griffith's Gnat 16-18 Black Stone Nymph
Small Dun Caddis (Important)	All Month	L am to M pm	16-18 Brown Elk-hair or Deer-hair Caddis 16-18 Grey Caddis Pupa
Blue Winged Olive & Blue Quill	All Month	L am to M pm	16-18 BWO, Blue Quill or Adams Parachute 16-18 BWO or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Quill Gordon (Important)	All Month	L am to M pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph
Cream Caddis (Important)	Late	M day to L pm	12-14 Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Red Quill (Hendrickson)	Mid to Late	M day to L pm	14-16 Red Quill or Hendrickson 14-16 Pheasant Tail Nymph
March Brown (very Important)	Mid to Late	L am to M pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 March Brown, Dark Hare's Ear or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Midges	All Month	M am to L pm	18-20 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa

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



**“Website-of-the-Month”:** <http://www.georgiawomenflyfishing.com/activity/casting-confidence-introduction-fly-fishing-breast-cancer-survivors>  
Casting For Confidence - An Introduction to Fly Fishing for Breast Cancer Survivors

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

Please send comments & suggestions to Pat Hopton, Website Project Manager, [scotts\\_creek58@yahoo.com](mailto:scotts_creek58@yahoo.com)

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

## Rabunite 101 - An Introduction to Fly Fishing for Trout

<http://rabuntu.org/site/about/educational-programs/>



On **Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 8:30 AM, the Rabun Chapter will offer a 4-hour Introduction seminar for adults (male and female - age 16 years and older). The seminar includes casting, entomology, knots and equipment for folks who want to get started in the pleasure of fly-fishing for trout. The location will be at the Rabun County Recreation Center just south of Rabun County High School.



We will be able to accommodate 28 students and the cost of \$30 per person will include lunch.

Do you know someone that might be interested?

Tell them to contact Kathy or Charlie Breithaupt to make reservations. [knc615@windstream.net](mailto:knc615@windstream.net) or (706) 782-6954

Members of the Rabun Chapter are needed to instruct and help in other ways.  
Please save that date and let Kathy and Charlie Breithaupt know that you can help.



## Do you want to learn to tie flies?

If so, Terry Rivers & Ken Lambert are giving free instructions in tying flies during March on Thursday evenings.

The next fly tying session will be Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Kountry Vittles (Between Mtn City & Rabun Gap on the East side of Highway 441) beginning at 6:30 PM.

Contact Terry for more information:  
Ph 706 782 7419 E-mail [tir1121@windstream.net](mailto:tir1121@windstream.net)

## 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 and runner ups will be drawn at the Georgia Foothills Chapter's annual banquet, the "Hoot on the Hooch" in Helen, GA on March 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 **Kathy Breithaupt** for your raffle tickets: Ph 706 782 6954 E-mail [knc615@windstream.net](mailto:knc615@windstream.net)

## Pisgah Fly Masters Fly-Fishing Tournament March 19–20, 2011

**Registration:** Limited to 125 entrants. Competition in youth, fisherman and professional categories.

**Registration fee:** Adults \$50; Youth \$30. **Primary Sponsor:** Davidson River Outfitters

Proceeds help fund programming at the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, located next to the Bobby N. Setzer State Fish Hatchery on the Davidson River.

For more information, contact: Lee Sherrill

(828) 877-4423 [lee.sherrill@ncwildlife.org](mailto:lee.sherrill@ncwildlife.org) [www.ncwildlife.org/pisgahflymasters](http://www.ncwildlife.org/pisgahflymasters)

## Rabun TU Lending Library News



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](mailto: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](mailto:knc615@windstream.net)

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.

## 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 previous public comment period closed and the Forest Service has not released a new decision. Instead Forest Service officials announced on December 9<sup>th</sup> 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 asked the public for any new information. To see the "new" public comments submitted in January, click <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/sumter/resources/ChattoogaReinitiatedNEPA2010.php>. Meanwhile the status quo (no boating) continues on the North Fork as the boaters' second lawsuit is proceeding to a court trial.

## 25 Years and Going Strong - The Story of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

The roots of Rabun TU go back to 1965 when Doug Adams, Jim Nixon and Bill Kelly began camping and fishing together at THE RIVER (a.k.a. the Chattooga North Fork).



Adams, Kelly & Nixon

By 1976 the group had added several additional "regulars" and had started making annual campouts every May at THE RIVER and summer road trips to camp and fish in Colorado.



They adopted the name Klondike Enterprises and the motto, "Gold is Where You Find It." By 1985 the informal fishing club had about 20 regulars and 8 or 10 "next generation" youngsters.

Beginning in the mid 70s and continuing through the early 80s, THE RIVER suffered a steep decline in the quality of the angling experience, especially solitude and catch rate. In 1985, about 15 members of GA and SC TU leadership in Atlanta, Greenville and Columbia met in a cabin on Ford Mountain in Rabun County on October 19<sup>th</sup> for a lengthy discussion of concerns and possible remedies. A working committee of 5 spent the next month preparing a joint resolution sent to the agencies on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Doug Adams, a Chattooga angler since 1955 and member of TU, was invited to serve on that committee. The cover letter and resolution requested a meeting with the fishery professionals in the US Forest Service and Georgia and South Carolina Departments of Natural Resources to express concerns about the decline in THE RIVER fishery.



Professionals Russ England, Jeff Durniak & Monte Seehorn

The professionals came to Ford Mountain on February 28, 1986. The professionals listened as the "city" TU folks described the decline in the fishery and their suggested solutions involving "catch & release" and "fly fishing only" regulations. The professional proposed an action plan that included a 3-year study to collect data scientifically on water quality, the fishery, angler use patterns and angler experiences. It was the beginning of the Chattooga Coalition. (To read more about the Chattooga Coalition, click <http://rabuntu.org/site/about/work-projects/the-story-of-the-chattooga-coalition/>.)



Professional & Volunteers Electro-Sampling THE RIVER

In May 1986, the Klondikers held their annual 5-day campout at THE RIVER. At that campout they discussed how the organized "city" TU members were trying to sway the professionals in the future management of THE RIVER. The "locals" needed to also organize so that they could express their views and to "give something back" to the coldwater resources that have meant so much to them. The Klondikers voted to request a charter from National TU for a Rabun Chapter.



Klondikers at an Annual May Campout

After proper advertising in the local paper, the provisional Rabun Chapter held its organizational meeting in the community room of the Rabun County Library on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1986. A slate of officers was elected: Doug Adams-President, Jim Nixon-VP, Tom Landreth-VP & Newsletter Editor, Tom Shirley-Secretary/Treasurer, Jim Darnell, Fritz Vinson & Jim Kidd-Directors. The Rabun Chapter received its Charter on August 7<sup>th</sup>. There were 26 charter members, and 15 of those are still members today. Also, 7 of the Klondike "youngsters" have since joined the Chapter.

At that time, Rabun was the only Georgia TU Chapter in the mountains north of Roswell and between Dalton and Greenville, SC. After Art Shick and his young sons came over from SC to participate in a Rabun TU camping/fishing/in-stream work-outing, he and Ray Mortensen decided to form the Chattooga River Chapter in Clemson (1988). The Georgia Foothills Chapter in Clarkesville formed as a Rabun TU "spinoff" when Rabunite Jimmy Harris decided to apply for a TU charter for his hometown (1993). Presently there are 3 more chapters in the Northeast Georgia mountains, located in Blairsville, Blue Ridge and Dahlonega.

In the summer of 1986 Rabun TU volunteers started working on projects to restore the Chattooga North Fork fisheries and

have since logged over 100 in-stream work outings throughout Northeast Georgia, always under the guidance and supervision of agency professionals.



Working to enhance the habitat in a wild trout tributary

Every year since 1992 the Rabunites have provided funds for summer interns to work with GA DNR and Forest Service professionals to improve wild trout fisheries in Northeast Georgia.



The Chapter has become famous for the annual Rabun Rendezvous fundraiser (started in 1987) held every January in the Dillard Conference Center and welcoming up to 300 likeminded trout enthusiasts.



The Chapter has always had several camping and fishing outings each year, including a 4-vehicle, 16-member caravan for a 10-day road trip to Wyoming in 1990.

Rabunites have been recognized in several magazine and newspaper articles for their conservation and volunteerism. In 1992, the USDA Forest Service presented the Chapter a "Certificate of Appreciation" for volunteerism. National TU awards include the Chapter Silver Trout Award in 1989,

Professional Conservationist awards to Monte Seehorn in 1989 and to Jeff Durniak in 2006, Distinguished Service award to Doug Adams in 2004,



Youth Education Leadership award to Kathy and Charlie Breithaupt in 2007 and Best Website award in 2010 to Pat Hopton and Allison Adams <http://rabuntu.org/site/>.

Over the years, as the other 4 chapters in the Georgia Mountains were chartered, numerous Rabun TU memberships were transferred over to them. Yet the Rabun Chapter has grown to more than 170 memberships, including 23 life memberships, 12 family memberships and 12 Stream Explorers. Rabunites still enjoy the fellowship of camp cooking, campfire stories, live bluegrass music and trout fishing. They still are a "hands-on" group working on in-stream habitat improvements and advocating for clean water and the protection of NE Georgia's coldwater fisheries.



Over the years, however, their emphasis has shifted to the education of the next generation of the coldwater conservationists: **Passing it on!**

The first 25 Years of Rabun TU as recalled by Doug Adams  
(Rev 2/3/2011)

**Past Chapter Presidents and the year(s) they served:**

Doug Adams- 86, 87, 88, 91, 92; Jim Nixon- 89, 90;  
 Kyle Burrell- 93; Jim Kidd- 94; Tom Landreth- 95, 96;  
 Russ Burken- 97, 98; Terry Seehorn- 99, 00;  
 Charlie Breithaupt- 01, 02, 03; Ray Kearns- 04, 05;  
 Terry Rivers- 06, 07; Jimmy Whiten- 08, 09;  
 Larry Walker- 10, 11

The Silver Anniversary 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Rabun Rendezvous will be January 21, 2012.  
**Chris Wood**, CEO of Trout Unlimited, and others from the national office will come to help us celebrate.  
 Do us and yourself a favor....make plans to join us. **WAaahWHOooo!**  
*"As always I am looking forward to the Rendezvous, it's like a big old family reunion."* Garland Stewart

## "Catchin' Corner" - Troutng Tips

**Editor's notes:** *Were you at the October Chapter Meeting? If you were there you heard Jake Daring share his nymph fishing techniques. Here is a refresher on what Jake was teaching us that evening.*

The following article is reprinted with permission from the Fly Shack Newsletter <http://www.flyshack.com/>  
**Euro-Nymphing Techniques Can Help You Connect with Early-Season Trout**

Spring will soon be here, and we all know what that means: streams are likely to be running high and cold with snow melt, and the fish are likely to be holding near the bottom.

In other words, it's a perfect time for European nymphing.

American anglers have become increasingly aware in recent years of the fly-tying and fishing techniques that have come to be called European. The methods we're discussing here were perfected mainly by anglers from in Poland and the Czech Republic who were competing in the world fly-fishing championships. French and Spanish competition anglers also have their own methods, and these countries have come to dominate the competitive fishing circuit - which just goes to show how effective these techniques can be. This way of fishing is similar to old-fashioned high-stick nymph fishing, but with a couple of important differences.

First, let's consider the flies. What are widely called Czech nymphs in the U.S. have certain characteristics in common: They tend to resemble caddis larvae (always a good bet on American rivers); they usually have a "hot spot" or a bead with a little flash to get the fish's attention; they're relatively heavy, and they have little or no hackle, tails, wings, antennae, etc. These last two points are important, because the No. 1 job of a Czech/Polish nymph is to sink fast.

Competitive fly-fishing forbids the use of split shot or similar weight on the leader. And since tournament anglers don't have the luxury of only fishing when there's a hatch in progress, they can't just hope the fish will be near the surface or up in the water column. They assume the trout (and grayling) will be holding near the bottom, and that's where they fish. The added weight and slim, smooth profile helps Czech nymphs drop quickly to where the fish are.



European nymphing often involves using two, three or even more nymphs at the same time. Naturally, this provides an opportunity to show the trout a variety of patterns. Your trout may not care for the tan Czech nymph, but the olive one floating a few inches behind it may look more appetizing. These multi-fly rigs can be made by tying 12 to 18 inches of tippet to the bend of one fly's hook and tying the next fly to the other end, but European nymphers more commonly use droppers. **The simplest way to add a dropper is to attach a segment of tippet with a surgeon's or blood knot and leave one of the tag ends six to eight inches long. Tie a fly on the end of the tag, add another segment and tie another fly on that knot's tag, then tie your final or "point" fly on the end of the rig.**

Of course, you don't need to use nymphs considered Polish, Czech or European for this kind of fishing - your favorite American patterns, such as Copper Johns, Hare's Ears, Princes or Zug Bugs, work very well when fished this way. The heavier the fly, the better, and don't be afraid to trim off some shaggy hackle or other appendage if you suspect it will interfere with the sink rate.

**The fishing technique is simple and deadly. It works on pocket water and swift, deep runs, where you can get close to the fish (it's not meant for slow, flat pools.) Using a very short line, maybe a rod's length or even less, you flick your flies as far upstream as you can reach, give them a moment to sink, then "lead" them down through the target water. This is the big difference between European nymphing and standard high-stick nymphing. When high-sticking, your rod tip follows the fly. In European nymphing, you almost pull the rig through the water on a relatively tight line. This keeps your flies moving and helps prevent them from settling into snags and obstructions, but more importantly, this makes it instantly clear when you get a bite.**

Competition rules generally forbid the use of strike indicators, but when fishing close and leading your flies through the water, you really don't need them anyway. **Still, some European nymphers use a short section of brightly colored, coiled line between their leader and fly line as a "sighter,"** and it more or less serves the same purpose as a regular strike indicator.

As water temperatures finally climb out of the 30s and aquatic insects once again appear in the drift in good numbers, trout will begin to feed. But they're not going to fight their way through a harsh winter's worth of melting snow to find their food - they're going to stay near the streambed and take what comes along. If what comes along happens to be a nymph on the end of your leader (or on your dropper), you might just have a fight on your hands.

**Learn more here:**

<http://www.hatchesmagazine.com/page/month/333>



**Tying nymphs in the Czech style**  
<http://globalflyfisher.com/patterns/czech/>

## What's New Elsewhere?

**GA Trout Unlimited Back-the-Brookie is now accepting intern applications through March 19, 2011.** The position is for part-time, hourly-paid Fisheries Technician Intern positions that are available through funding provided by Trout Unlimited. Interns will work under the direction of GA-DNR and US Forest Service biologists or technicians; however, interns are not employed by these agencies. The position is based out of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Lake Burton Trout Hatchery office. For details, click on [http://georgiatu.org/files/documents/GATU\\_BTBTB\\_2011\\_Intern.pdf](http://georgiatu.org/files/documents/GATU_BTBTB_2011_Intern.pdf)

## Fishing Reports

**Report filed from Texas by Rabunite Don Milleman's son-in-law (1/5/2011).** We were on the water by 10:30. Worked our way upstream from Rio Raft. Throwing small crawdad plastics on 1/16 oz jigs, ultra light, 6lb test. Water was COLD! But the fish were active. I was glad, because I had my father in law with me and wanted to show him some fish. We ended up catching 9. 3 were 19", a couple of 18", and a few 17". And then the highlight of two years fishing on that river, a 24", 5lb, 4oz pig. Better yet, it was caught by my father in law. Biggest trout he has ever caught. Caught it in a slow, deep pool, so that trout put on a show. The fight lasted almost 15 min. We didn't even see it until the end. We were actually wondering if we had hooked a big cat or something. All fish were released and swam away with good strength. Here are the pics. Big girl....5lb 4oz . More pictures [HERE](#)



# # #

**For the Trip of a Lifetime, Two Rabunites Go South of Tallulah Falls (Waaaaay South):** Since I live about a fifteen minute drive from the Tallulah River and about thirty minutes from the beautiful Chattooga, why did I travel six thousand miles to another continent in a different hemisphere just to fish? This trip was about far more than just fishing. It was an opportunity for an adventure that comes along very rarely. Traveling with good friends (Rabunite Jim Kidd) to a beautiful part of the world (Patagonia) to participate in an activity (fly fishing for trout) that you enjoy with top quality accommodations (Andes Drifters through Unicoi Outfitters <http://www.unicoioutfitters.com/destination-fishing.shtml>) is about as good as it gets.

This trip with Andes Drifters offered a chance to catch big, wild trout in big, wild water. Our guides were excellent in every way. They knew the water, had all the skills necessary and, best of all, were just good people with keen senses of humor. If you're gonna guide a guy like me, you need that sense of humor. We floated big water for two days, camping with all the comforts of home on the banks of the river. Even in camp, as well as in town, we enjoyed gourmet meals with a local flair. No one went hungry. Then we spent a day wading and fishing; then another two days floating and camping. The final day found us again wading.

We fished about ten hours each day and we caught trout...mostly rainbows, some browns. They took nymphs, dries and streamers. Some were pretty big, most were in the 17"+ range. Their colors were bright, their fights fierce and long. An Argentine trout in that big, fast water is no push over. We probably lost as many as we landed.

As with all great journeys there were several serendipitous experiences. Getting to know Ken Calkin and Randy Elmore from the Oconee River Chapter, watching Rex Gudgel, a guide from Unicoi Outfitters, as he accurately casted in a gale force wind were just part of what made the trip. Casting to rising fish during an unbelievable hatch and seeing the Southern Cross in a spectacular night sky were highlights in this trip of a life time. Report filed by Rabunite Charlie Breithaupt



Guide Martin & Jim Kidd



Charlie, Rex Gudgel, Ken Calkin, Jim, Randy Elmore



Charlie Breithaupt

**Three other Rabunites go just a short distance south of Tallulah Falls to make memories.** The Ole Creeler Bill Kelly, Gene Roberts and Leigh Wyatt have a memorable day catching some good'uns.



Bill Kelly and a RBT



Gene Roberts & Bill net another



Leigh Wyatt & RBT



Gene Roberts & a big BNT

**The warm weather has some good catching and excellent fishing on Smith Creek (2/18/2011).** I fished four hours the three days of the warm spell Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with Friday being the best. Tuesday was slow but something interesting happened. I had caught two in a couple of hours and was about to move when I noticed something unusual. I was on the hole below the road crossing and a fish hit on top in the center of the culvert. February 15th and he came up and hit on top. There was a hatch of an occasional Blue Winged Olive and they were coming off in the culvert. It was sheltered from the wind and the sun was shining in the culvert warming it up. Well, I decided to catch him if I could. I stripped off the lead and the nymphs and tied on a the smallest dry I had with me an Irritable. The first cast he did not take nor the second but the third into the culvert was a charm. He hit the irresistible and headed to parts unknown. After a brief battle I had him. It was a 12 inch beauty and in mid February at that. Friday was a neat day. I had about 20 fish on with 12 in my net. They hit a soft hackle. What a day. Report filed by Rabunite Ray Gentry.

### Letter to the Rabunites

Larry,

I want to express my appreciation to you and Rabun TU for the beautiful Broderick Crawford print presented to me and my family at our retirement celebration. Killeen has already put it on display in the house. I would also like you to pass along my appreciation to Doug and Terry for attending and so ably representing Rabun TU. It has been a pleasure to work together on the variety of projects over the years with the best TU chapter in the TU organization. Thank you and Rabun TU for that opportunity and privilege!

Dave, Killeen, Amanda, Carrie and Andy (the puppy) (The Jensen Family)

**Editor's notes:** *With 39 years and 5 months of service time with the USFS, Chattooga River District Ranger Dave Jensen retired January 1<sup>st</sup>. Dave came here in August 1988 on a 2-3 year plan and stayed for 22 years.*

### "BACKCASTING"

**Feb 1 (Tues) 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Chattooga Coalition Meeting:** The first Coalition meeting occurred 25 years ago on Feb 28, 1986 in a cabin on Ford Mountain in Rabun County. Monte Seehorn was leader then and Monte is still the Coalition leader today. To read more about the Coalition, click

<http://rabuntu.org/site/about/work-projects/the-story-of-the-chattooga-coalition/>

There were 17 participants at this meeting, including 6 Rabun TU members. There were representatives for the Forest Service in GA, SC & NC; DNR in GA & SC; TU in GA & S; and American Whitewater. The agenda included: Brief summary of last year's discussion; Update of FS – Whitewater Situation; Fisherman Diaries; Temperature Monitoring; Stocking; Fish Sampling; Invasive Chinese Silvergrass; Proposed improvements to Big Bend & Simms Field Trails; Stekoa Cr. Progress; Russell Farmstead Update; Outfitters & Guides Update & Proposed Trail Race Update.



Monte Seehorn – Coalition Leader for 25 Years

**Feb 3 (Thurs) Fly Tying – 7 participants tying the girdle bug and woolly buggler on a snowy night in Rabun Gap.**



Rabunites Frank Patton, Leigh Wyatt & Tony Allred learning to tie the girdle bug (see Fly of the Month on page 1).



**Feb 5 (Sat) Annual Planning Breakfast Meeting:** 12 members met to develop the annual plan. It was a delicious and bountiful Dillard House breakfast followed by a very productive work session. The items on the agenda included:

Rabun Rendezvous de-briefing - What we can do to make the next Rendezvous even better.

2011 Budgeted Expenditures – The Chapter had \$32,000 available and needed to properly allocate its 2011 expenditure to support our TU mission. See budget allocation below.

2011 Calendar – Dates were set for the upcoming Chapter activities during the next 12 months.

2011 Chapter Meeting Programs – The Chapter needs 9 meeting programs each year.

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### The results of the 2011 Budgeted Expenditure Planning are as follows:

**CHAPTER OPERATIONS - \$5,020** (Includes: newsletter, website, annual planning breakfast, memorials, equipment, administrative supplies, meeting expenses, postage, accountant services, development of PowerPoint outreach presentation, develop E-survey Chattooga Diary)

**YOUTH & EDUCATION - \$7,485** (Includes: funding for 2 kids to attend GA Trout Camp, supplemental funding for the 2011 GA Trout Camp, Smithgall Woods Youth Education Program, UGA coldwater Research Endowment, Fly Fishing for Vets, GA DNR Outdoor Adventure Day at Unicoi State Park, Casting for Recovery, kids fishing events at Black Rock Mountain State Park and US Forest Service Tallulah River, 7 gift TROUT magazine subscriptions to libraries and state parks in Rabun County, gift

TU memberships for Stream Explorers and others, Rabun County Middle School Mentoring, Boy Scouts Merit Badge.)

**CONSERVATION PROJECTS - \$9,000** (Includes: Stekoa Creek watershed improvements, Stekoa Clean-up &/or City Park, Stop I-3 Coalition, GA Back-the-Brookie project funding, In-stream volunteer workdays, Stream Project w/USFS contractor.

NOTE – the backcountry helicopter stocking of the Chattooga North and West Forks will be funded by the Tom Landreth Memorial Fund)

**NATIONAL PROGRAMS - \$2,500** (Includes: the Youth Education Initiative, Southeastern Land Protection Coordinator, Embrace-A-Stream program)

**TU OUTREACH & CONTIGENCY - \$1,500**

**TOTAL 2011 BUDGET - \$25,505**

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### 2011 Calendar – You Don't Want to Miss These

**9 Regular Monthly Chapter Meetings with Programs & Raffles** at RE/MAX on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues evenings, 6:30 PM: 2/15, 3/15, 4/19, 6/14, 8/16, 9/20, 10/18, 11/15, 1/17/2012

**Mentoring – Fly Tying Instructions** (2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31) 6:30 PM at Kountry Vittles

**Mentoring – Rabun County Middle School** (4/1, 4/22)

**Recruit – Bass Pro Shops/TU Fly Fishing Days** (2/19 & 2/20) in Lawrenceville

**Recruit – Great southern Fly Fishing Show** (2/19 & 2/20) North Atlanta Trade Show Center

**Outreach – GA Women Fly Fishers Fundraiser** (2/26) in Atlanta

**Outreach – Hoot-on-the-Hooch** (3/12) on Sat evening where the 2011 Dream Trip Raffle winners will be drawn.

**Mentoring – The ½-Day Fly Fishing School** (a.k.a. Rabunite 101) (4/2) Sat morning by the Rabunites at Rabun County Recreation Center

**Mentoring – Fly-Fishing for Vets** (4/9) 9 AM at Paces Mill, East Palisades Park on the “Hooch”

**Outreach – Oconee River TU Chapter Fundraiser** (4/9) Flinchum's Phoenix Lodge on UGA Campus on Sat Evening

**Workday – for BtB with Camping** (4/15 – 4/16) Fri camping & Sat morning workday with Jim Kidd & USFS leading work on North Fork Moccasin Creek and camping beside the Wildcat Creek Road, w/ FHTUC, C-NTUC & TWTUC

**Mentoring – KFE at Black Rock Mountain State Park** (5/7)

**Outreach – Blue Ridge Mountain TU Chapter Fundraiser** (5/7) High Country Boil

**Spring Camping & Fishing Outing** (5/11 – 5/15) Wed – Sun, the Upper Chattooga backcountry with camping at USFS Cherry Hill (SC) Campground

**SE Regional Rally** (5/12 - 5/14) in Townsend, TN

**Mentoring – Annual Spring Family Cookout** (5/16) 4 PM Monday at Indian Lake, with Boy &/or Girl Scout Troops as our guests.

**Workday – Betty Creek In-Stream Trimming/Clean-up** (5/28) 9 AM in preparation for GA Trout Camp

**SE Region FFF Conclave** (6/3 & 6/4) at Unicoi S.P.

**Mentoring – Annual Kids Fishing Event** (6/4) 9 AM Saturday morning at Tallulah River with USFS

**Mentoring – 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Trout Camp** (6/5 – 6/10) from Sun – Fri; we need all the help we can get for this.

**Workday – TU's Stream Clean-Up Day** (6/18) Stekoa Creek]

**Workday – Electro Sample Chattooga River** (7/12 & 7/13) 8:30 AM Burrell's Ford

**Annual Summer Family Picnic** (7/19) 6 PM at Kelly's Waterfall Park on Tues Evening

**Workday – Waters Creek** (8/27) with NGTO, TU, USFS & WRD

**National TU Annual Meeting** (9/14 – 9/17) in Bend, Oregon

**Outreach - PowerPoint Program for Sky Valley POA** (9/21)

**Mentoring – Outdoor Adventure Day** (9/24) with GA DNR; Unicoi S. P.

**Camping & Fishing Outing at Blackwell Place** (10/5 – 10/9) Wed – Sun,

**Outreach – Coosa Valley TU Chapter Chili Cook off** (10/8) in Rome

**Fall Camping & Fishing Outing** (11/2 – 11/6) Wed – Sun, with camping at Long Bottom (SC) and fishing in Chattooga DH and backcountry

**Outreach – Cohutta Chapter Annual "Shrimp Boil"** (12/10)

**Annual Family Christmas Dinner** (12/13) 6 PM at Dillard Rock House on Tues evening

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Rabun Rendezvous** (1/21/2012) at Dillard House Conference Center

**Annual Planning Meeting** (2/4/2012) with 8 AM breakfast meeting at the Dillard House where we set our budget and planned expenditures for 2012.

**GA TU Council Meetings** (3/5) in Dahlonega, (5/21) in Sautee Nacoochee United Methodist Church, (9/10) in Tallulah Falls, & (12/3) at USFS.

**11 Monthly Rabun TU Board of Directors Meetings** on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, RE/MAX Office, 6:30 PM each month except December: January BOD Meeting is 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

**Calendar Summary:** 23 Mentoring Days, 6 In-Stream Volunteer Workdays, 9 Meetings with Programs, 3 Social Family Meetings, 1 Major Fundraiser – The Rabun Rendezvous, 6 Outreaches to other Chapter fundraisers, 16 Camping Days (with fishing, campfire stories & bluegrass) **WAAaaah WHOoooo!**

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**Feb 10 (Thurs) Fly Tying** – 9 participants learned to tie the Flash Back Pheasant Tail & Gold Rib Hares ear.

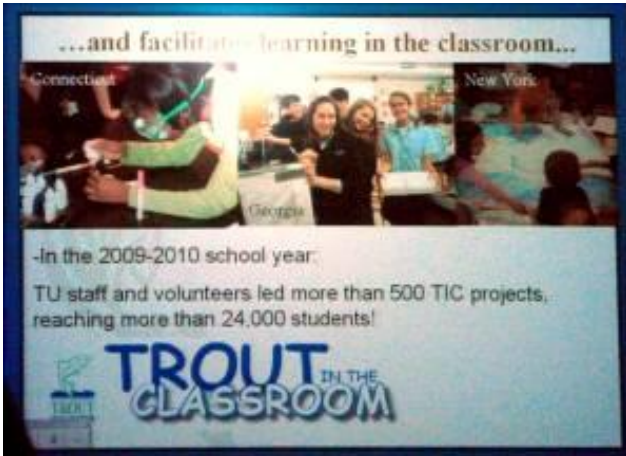


Stream Explorer Jake Toller gets help from the experts



Leigh Wyatt & Charlie Breithaupt practice tying nymphs

**Feb15 (Tues) Chapter Meeting;** attended by 29 Rabunites. The Program was “*The TU Youth Education Initiative*” [HERE](#) presented by Franklin Tate from Nation TU. Franklin explained the importance of the youth outreach and discussed the various programs – “Stream Explorers”, “Trout in the Classroom”, “Youth Camps” and the “5 Rivers” college age program. Franklin then led a Q & A discussion and idea session.



After the program, Chapter President Larry Walker (right) presented Franklin with a \$1,000 donation from the Rabun Chapter to be used in support of the youth initiative because Rabunites believe today's youth are tomorrow's coldwater conservationists.

**Passing it on!**

**Editor's notes:** The \$1,000 donation was budgeted at the Rabun TU Chapter Annual Planning Breakfast Meeting on 2/5/2011.

The **Meeting Raffle** had 10 buckets. It included a set of SS cooking utensils, 2 fly selections, a multi tool, a pound of local sourwood honey and many more nice items. The raffle raised \$128 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 the meeting raffle. A BIG “Thank You” goes to all the Rabunites who donated the items and to everyone who purchased raffle tickets.

**Feb 17 (Thurs) Fly Tying** – 14 participants learned to tie the Elk Hair Caddis.



**Feb 19 & 20 (Sat & Sun) Fly Fishing Weekend at Bass Pro Shops**, 6 Rabunites participated. **Terry Rivers** was the Chapter lead person assisted by **Doug Hickman, Phil Upchurch, Frank Tolbert, Frank Patton and Tony Allred**



Rabunites Doug Hickman & Terry Rivers tying flies      Carl Riggs & Mack Martin at the Council table

**Feb 22 (Tues) BOD Meeting** – 12 participated. Some agenda items include: **Recaps** – 2010 Federal Tax Return; Chattooga Coalition Meeting; Thursday Evening Fly Tying; Jensen Retirement Dinner; Annual Planning Meeting; Franklin Tate’s Program - “The TU Youth Education Initiative”; Fly Fishing Weekend at Bass Pro Shops **Status Updates** – “Thank You” letters to Donors to Rendezvous; Mentoring, Rabun County Middle School; Chattooga Boating Zoning; Rabunite 101; Dream Trip Raffle; Youth Outreach to Scouts, RCMS, Stream Explorers, etc; Chapter Logo; Stekoa Creek Clean-up Day 6/18; E-mails to Expired Memberships; LWCF; GA TU Council meeting location on 9/10; Website & Facebook in January; Chapter Lending Library; Rabunite 101 on 4/2; Helicopter spring stocking; Water Sampling of Brookie Streams **Upcoming** – Fly Tying On Thursday Evenings in Feb & March; 3/5 GA TU Council Meeting 9 AM in Dahlonega; 3/12 Hoot on the Hooch, Helen GA; 3/15 Chapter Meeting Program **New Business** – List of donors to the Rendezvous on Rabun Town Crier; E- fishing diary proposal; 2011 Rod Raffle; Request from Rabun County 4H for donation of \$250; Revise the Chapter Bylaws & Develop a Chapter Strategic Plan; Nomination of a director to replace Chris Whitley **Reports** – Publicity; Membership; Treasury

**THANK YOU**

**Amrine’s Equipment & Rentals** of Clayton; **Alex Watson** of Atlanta; **Russ Tyre** of St Petersburg FL; **Elizabeth Fowler** of Clayton; **Sheila & Doug Mansfield** of Hiawassee; **Tom Matthews** of Tiger; **Sandy & Ralph Morgan** of St Marys GA; **Bill Archer** of Tiger, **John Kies** of Laurel Park NC and **A Friend** for your recent cash donations.

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

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Congratulations to grandparents **Beth & Larry Walker** and parents **Summer & Brent Escoe** on the birth of a new daughter, Hayes. We wish **Kent Wilson** a rapid and complete recovery from his recent surgery,

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

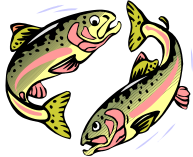
A Big Rabunite “WELCOME” to **2 new members** this month: **Bob Sharpe** 4448 LAKE FOREST DR, OAKWOOD GA 30566 & **Patrick Rising** (transfer) PO BOX 956278, DULUTH GA 30095-9505.

Thanks for re-upping: **Avril Adams (SE), Calder Adams (SE), Lea Richmond, Ronald Larson, Fritz Vinson, Russ Burken, Wesley Hopper, John Ramsey & Dwight Milleman**

It is time to renew your membership: **Arnold Deitz, Pat Gorman, Troy Meek, David E. Nichols, Frank Patton, Kirk Allen Thompson, Neil Anderson, Jack Bates, Kevin Lash, Chuck Breithaupt, James Moore, Larry Peavy, Lewis Reeves III, Gilbert Turner, Claude McDill, David Smith & Ron Wilson**

**Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2011**

<b>President</b> – <b>Larry Walker</b> (w/Mtg Refreshments, Media, Awards & Budget)	Ph 706 244 4345	E-mail <a href="mailto:amosndixie@windstream.net">amosndixie@windstream.net</a>
<b>Vice President</b> - <b>Pat Hopton</b> (w/Website, Social Media, NGTO & Rod raffle)	Ph 706 782 4978	E-mail <a href="mailto:scotts_creek58@yahoo.com">scotts_creek58@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> - <b>Tony Allred</b> (w/Reports & Budgets, Entrance table at R/R)	Ph 706 490 4755	E-mail <a href="mailto:allredt@windstream.net">allredt@windstream.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b> - <b>Ray Gentry</b> (w/Correspondence & Scouts fishing event)	Ph 404 680 6736	E-mail <a href="mailto:regentry@windstream.net">regentry@windstream.net</a>
<b>Past President</b> - <b>Jimmy Whiten</b> (w/Dream Trip Raffle)	Ph 706 886 6546	E-mail <a href="mailto:jimmywhiten@yahoo.com">jimmywhiten@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Director thru F/Y2011:</b> <b>Kathy Breithaupt</b> (w/101 & Camp)	Ph 706 782 6954	E-mail <a href="mailto:knc615@windstream.net">knc615@windstream.net</a>
<b>Director thru F/Y2011:</b> <b>Charlie Breithaupt</b> (w/101, Camp, Library, Nametags & Mtg host)	Ph 706 782 6954	E-mail <a href="mailto:knc615@windstream.net">knc615@windstream.net</a>
<b>Director thru F/Y2012:</b> <b>Jim Kidd</b> (w/Instream projects & Scouts M/B)	Ph 706 782 2474	E-mail <a href="mailto:jikidd@windstream.net">jikidd@windstream.net</a>
<b>Director thru F/Y2012:</b> <b>Terry Rivers</b> (w/Festivals, BTB, Campout Equip & Mtg Raffles)	Ph 706 782 7419	E-mail <a href="mailto:tlr1121@windstream.net">tlr1121@windstream.net</a>
<b>Director thru F/Y2013:</b> <b>Steve Perry</b>	Ph 706 746 3558	E-mail <a href="mailto:flygide@windstream.net">flygide@windstream.net</a>
<b>Director thru F/Y2013:</b> <b>Jeff Durniak</b> (w/Mtg Programs & Hosting speaker)	Ph 706 892 6576	
<b>Director thru F/Y2014:</b> VACANT		
<b>Director thru F/Y2014:</b> <b>Frank Tolbert</b> (w/Annual river clean-up, OAD & KFE)	Ph 770 363 1967	E-mail <a href="mailto:gtolb1@jcpenny.com">gtolb1@jcpenny.com</a>
Non-voting: Newsletter Editor - <b>Doug Adams</b> (w/Newsletter, BOD Agenda & Rendezvous)	Ph 706 746 2158	E-mail <a href="mailto:edadams1@windstream.net">edadams1@windstream.net</a>
Any member of Rabun TU may attend the Board of Directors meetings		



## Letter From The Chapter President

Dear Fellow Rabunites,

As I have grown in years, I have learned to enjoy winter more and more. Yet, as winter begins to fade away and signs of Spring (even if they are teasers) start appearing, I get as excited as a kid waiting for Christmas. I'll bet many of you do the same as you think about dry fly fishing, wet wading and just being warm.

Well, in addition to the anticipation of the coming warmer weather fishing, I'd like to ask you to capture some other opportunities to catch 'em (youth that is; not just trout). We are approaching the season when our Chapter will have at least one, and sometimes more, youth events every month.

I hope you will take a few minutes and look at our annual calendar and put some of the dates for the many kid's events on it. While you are marking those dates, you can also pin down dates for our campouts, stream clean-up and many other events that are ahead of us.

There are a few raw days still left ahead unless this is a very unusual year. On one of those cold and rainy days, take about five minutes and go through the attached annual calendar and transfer dates from it to your personal calendar. Then, you will have lots of exciting events to look forward to in addition to the great fishing season you deserve.

Best regards, *Larry*

P.S. you really don't have to wait until a raw day to mark your calendar; how about right now?

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](mailto:edadams1@windstream.net) or to: Rabun TU, PO Box 65, Rabun Gap, GA 30568

Please tell us if you have E-mail, it will save the chapter \$1.28 per newsletter mailed:

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

RABUN CHAPTER of TROUT UNLIMITED

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