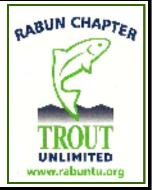


Tight Lines

December 2015 Newsletter of the Rabun Chapter (522) of Trout Unlimited Editor: Michele Crawford <u>crawfordart@windstream.net</u> Rabun TU's Award Winning Web Site <u>http://rabuntu.org/site/</u>



"He told us about Christ's disciples being fisherman, and we were left to assume...that all great fishermen on the Sea of Galilee were fly fisherman and that John, the favorite, was a dry-fly fisherman." Norman Maclean - A River Runs Through It

HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

then one month later get ready for the 29th annual RABUN RENDEZVOUS!!

Join fellow TU'ers from near and far, old friends & new, young and old for a great evening of fun, fellowship and celebration

of TROUT, RIVERS & CONSERVATION!



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The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited proudly presents A Celebration of Rivers, Streams, Trout, and Trout Fishing Please Join Us for the 29th Annual Rabun Rendezvous

When: Saturday, January 23, 2016

Where: The "NEW" Dillard House Conference Center, 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. (BYOB)* There will also be a fire inside to warm your buns. *The Foxfire Boys* with their famous Blue Grass Music will begin at 5 pm.

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.

Cost: : \$33 for adults. \$25 for those under the age of 15. Cash, checks, VISA or MasterCard. We don't do advanced tickets, just pay at the door.

Lodging: The Dillard House has set special rates for rooms starting at \$69(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.Check out the Dillard House web site <u>here</u>. Also Mountain Aire Cottages on North Main Street in Clayton is giving special rates for TU folks. Call them at 706-782-9568. You can view their web site <u>here</u>

Program Presenter: : Ian and Charity Rutter, R&R Fly Fishing. Ian and Charity are based in Townsend, TN. They offer premier guide services specializing in the Great Smoky Mountains and East Tennessee and have published 5 books on "Fishing the Smokies". They are great presenters and highlight their programs with beautiful photography and *video. Come spend the evening with Ian and Charity. Please click on the link <u>here</u> to find out more about R&R Fly Fishing.*



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Notes from the President



MERRY CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the Chapter We are looking for a home and would welcome one with rapture. Our stockings are hung by the chimney with care,

Hoping a new fly rod, fly line, and flies will be there.

Rendezvous is coming

We need a huge turnout

In order to complete our vision,

then go fish for trout.

Bet you thought I could continue this ad infinitum! But not. I want to take this time to say THANK YOU for all of your contribution to our Chapter. Yes, we have two really big tasks to accomplish- a permanent home and Rendezvous. I am confident we will ALL take both to heart and step up to accomplish the tasks.

So, from our house to yours- A very Merry Christmas and a HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR !

Steve



The Atlanta Fly Fishing School instructors wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous New Year! We look forward to seeing you next year to help make your fly fishing experience more enjoyable and perhaps more productive. When you are looking for a present for someone special or for the person who has everything, consider a gift certificate for

a class or private lesson with the Atlanta Fly Fishing School - the only Trout Unlimited Gold endorsed fly fishing



school in the US! <u>www.atlantaflyfishingschool.com</u> (404) 550-6890



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Forward Casting Calendar

Jan. 21 (Thurs): Rabun TU **Regular monthly meeting** at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church. Social at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00. **Our January guest is Rabunite Landon** Williams. Landon's Topic will be " Innovative Nymphing Techniques for Wintertime Dredging". Landon is known for his year round fishing talents so this should be a very informative meeting. See you there!

Jan. 23 (Sat): RABUN REN-



DEZVOUS !!!This is our 29th annual fundraising event.

Don't miss it! More information on page 2. This is our biggest fundraiser every year. To keep working for the trout and preserving cold clean fishable waters we need your support. If you can't come you can always make a donation by check to Rabun TU, P.O. Box 371, Clayton, GA 30525. Or if you have something you would like to donate to our silent auction please contact Ray King at 828-349-2786.

Feb. 6 (Sat): (Date is tentative) Annual Planning Meeting at the Dillard House. Everyone welcome. We will be planning out our activities over the next year after feasting on a delicious breakfast!! Great time to fellowship and work together and Breakfast is on US! Starts at 8 AM.

Feb. 18 (Thurs): Rabun TU regular monthly meeting at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church. Social starts at 6:30 and meeting at 7 pm.

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Feb. 25 (Thurs): Board of Directors meeting 6:30 at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church. Social starts at 6:30 and meeting at 7 pm. Agenda will include Rendezvous recap and upcoming events.

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Matching the Hatch: brought to you from many ole Rabunites who have spent countless hours fishing and trudging along river banks, tying flies, casting, overcoming weather, bugs, and no telling what else to bring you this recorded, tried and true valued information.

December fly of the month:

By: Landon Williams Hook: Size 16 Umpqua competition jig hook Tread: black or brown 8/0 (for black and copper bead specifically) Bead: 2.0 mm slotted black nickel/ copper tungsten bead Tail: Pheasant tail

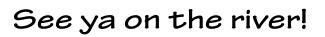
Body: 1 strand size extra small pumpkin sili leg wrapped as abdomen thorax: light olive ice dub

Fish this fly on those cloudy days where Blue Wings are more likely to



hatch. This fly is great in a dry dropper rig a couple feet below a more buoyant dry (Small stimulator/ Large Elk Hair Caddis). Secret tip: Tie some with a copper bead for brighter sunnier days and you will catch more fish over its darker cousin!

BWO Euro Jia



To view a Hatch Chart for all month click Hatch Chart

More tips and helpful information from Dredger and other Georgia DNR fisheries staff. Click <u>here</u> for the latest reports.





Chattooga Level

Tallulah River Level

Nantahala

Little Tennessee





December Hatches					
THE BUGS	Time of Month	Time of Day	Suggested flies		
None at all	All year	All Day	Dredging Nymphs: 12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, PT #14 Parachute Adams is always a good searching pattern		
Midges	All year	All Day	18-22 Griffith's Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa		
Terrestrials – Ants, Beetles, Crickets, Inch-Worms, Etc	Various Times & Sizes	Various Times & Sizes	Various Times & Sizes		
Blue Winged Olive & Blue Quill (important)	Late	Late AM to Mid PM	16-20 BWO, Blue Quill or Adams Para- chute 16-20 BWO nymph or Pheasant Tail		

Tips, Trips, and More:

Winter is coming...sooner or later anyway so check out this article from Hatch Magazine for their call on the top five flies to get you through the winter.

<u>Click here for the article.</u>

Dealing with frozen rod guides in the winter can be aggravating. Check out this article from Deneki Outdoors in Alaska for a great tip on solving the problem. They're from Alaska so they know cold. .

<u>Click here for the article.</u>

CHATTOOGA RIVER ANGLER'S DIARY

After a day on the Chattooga please fill out this brief survey so agencies can compile information and continue to improve angling experiences. THANKS!

CLICK <u>HERE</u> FOR DIARY.

Our guest speakers at the 2016 Rabun Rendezvous are lan and Charity Rutter from R & R Fly Fishing. They are based out of the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee. Check out their latest newsletter for some great winter fishing tips.

<u>Click here for the newsletter.</u>

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DREAM TRIP - FLY FISHING FOR TWO!



"The 2016 Dream Trip reaches new heights. The opportunity to fish with John McGarity, stay in his fabulous log cabin conveniently located between the Madison River, Yellowstone National Park and the Henry's Fork puts you smack dab in the middle of some of the most famous trout waters in North America. John is the consummate trout angler, fishing almost every day during the 5 or 6 months each year he resides in Idaho. Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone checks with John for fishing reports. Having been a restauranteur, John is also an excellent cook... you will not go hungry on this trip! TU couldn't ask for a better host and guide for this year's Dream Trip."

• 5 days hosted fishing / 6 nights lodging in Idaho July 24- 30, 2016

- \$500 total in travel expenses travel arrangements will be the responsibility of the winners. *Fishing licenses, gratuities, and alcoholic beverages will be the responsibility of the winners during their stay.
- Each winner receives:

Choice of Winston BIII-x or Sage ONE 4, 5 or 6 wt rod A fly reel with Scientific Angler line



A fly box and flies for the trip (Approx. 5-7 dozen per box)

Tickets \$10 Proceeds Benefit TU Cold Water Conservation and Trout Camp

RUNNER UP PRIZES:

- TFO BVK 4 wt. or 5 wt. 9' fly rod. Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- TFO BVK reel. Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- Fly box with 6 dozen + trout flies. Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- AFFS gift certificate for a fly fishing or fly casting class during 2016. Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- A private fly casting lesson including digital casting analysis and video analysis (this donation would apply to those mastering basic casting skills already). Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- Five or nine day trip to Kasba Lodge, NWT, Canada for one person. Trip is set up for two people for 5 or 9 days. Winner or partner must pay for second person (\$3995/5 day trip & \$5395/9 day trip individual rate). http://www.kasba.com. Donated by the Kasba Lodge, NWT, Canada. Best dates for fly fishing are June 28 to July 6, 2016. Contact Mack Martin for arrangements.
- Two nights at the Fire Fly Lodge and a full day of unguided trout fishing on either Hothouse Creek trophy trout stream or the Toccoa River from Firefly's private frontage. http://www.fireflyfishinglodge.com
- Custom made 5 or 8 weight, 9 foot fly rod made by Matt Walters. Walters Fly Rod 9', 8WT, 4PC Cinder Creek or 9', 5WT, 4PC Chattahoochee Fly Rod (Winner's Choice - Rod descriptions can be found at http:// www.waltersflyrods.com)
- Half day guided float trip for two on Chattahoochee River. Donated by Chris Scalley River Through Atlanta
- Half day guided fishing trip for two with Henry Cowan....Donated by Henry Cowan
- Unguided half day fishing at Nacoochee Bend for two fishermen... Donated by Unicoi Outfitters
- Two fly boxes of 6 dozen trout flies donated by 12 TU chapters in Georgia.

For complete rules and details visit www.georgiatu.org



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The winnner(s) of this raffle are responsible for any tax due on the value of the winnin

Back Casting



L-R Rabun TU President Steve Perry, Guest speaker Steve Hudson.

The Rabun TU monthly meeting was held on Thursday November 19, 2015 at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church. We had a great program presented by Steve Hudson. Steve gave a very informative program called " the line on leaders ." Prez Steve presented guest speaker Steve with a Broderick Crawford print in appreciation for his program.

Letters to the Rabunites

Thank you Rabun Chapter r the framed print, that was iven to Savannah River chapter Tiven fundraiser OUY Framed print was a great The asset, that helped us get H we needed for next years funds Dans 3 hank you? Pres. Jimmy MillER Pass it On Protect Restore Conserve

Fishing tales

EPIC BATTLE: I broke my rod in half . . . on an 11" rainbow??? By: Brian Weeks

This past weekend, (Nov. 14-15) Bonedog and I hit Buchheim Creek in search of, well . . . fish! While the entire day brought us fish, there was one fish in particular that is the sole reason this report is being written. So, I'll fast forward to this most story-worthy fish of the day and go from there.

As we made our way upstream, we came up on a deep pool that looked like it should hold some fish. The water that day was a bit high and a little stained. It was my turn, so I stepped into pole position and made a few casts. Several drifts in and the sighter started to tighten. A hookset later and there was indeed a fish on. Bonedog asked me how big it was, and based on how it was pulling I replied, "About 11 inches."

Naturally, I tried to bring it to the surface and then into the net, but I couldn't get it all the way out of the water. In fact, I could only bring it up to about a foot under the surface before it turned to head back down the water column. But, when it turned, it flashed its light-colored underside and Bonedog and I both said in almost perfect unison, "That looks bigger than 11 inches."

Once it got done trying to get down to the bottom of the pool, I worked it back up and tried again to pull it up and out of the water. But again, I couldn't get it to break the surface. It wasn't that it was pulling that hard, it just wasn't coming up that easily. As it turned to head back down for a second time, it again flashed its silver belly and through about eight inches of slightly stained water, we both saw what was most certainly *not* an 11-inch rainbow. It was a submarine. Bonedog saw it and said, "Dude. That is a BEAST."

Apparently this thing wasn't quite awake at the beginning of the fight or something, but now he was dang wide awake and ready for this whole thing to be over, like yesterday. Right before our very eyes, his clothes started to tear away from his body, he turned green, got WAY bigger, flexed his muscles, and was off to depths unknown like a nuclear-powered sub (the fish, not Bonedog). The battle was ON.

Over the next five minutes, my rod (and my arm) got a serious workout. Low side-pressure to the right. Then low side-pressure to the left. Then back to the right. Then back to the left again. After what I thought might have been enough, I tried to get his head out of the water so I could finally net him. Yeah. Not even close to being ready. That just made him open up the side ports, crank up the propeller to full throttle, and rocket upstream, forcing my rod to bow to him. Despite my Herculean build, by this point, my arm was getting tired. This fish was ridiculously strong and wanted nothing more than to be anywhere else but at the end of my line. His energy level hadn't diminished one bit since he had turned into the Hulk, but mine was already beginning to wane.

There was some shallower water upstream, so I tried to coax him up there so I could maybe have a better chance of getting him in the net. But, there was also some brush on the left and a submerged log on the right up ahead from which I knew I had to keep him away. But sure enough, as soon as he saw his get-out-of-jail-free card on the right, he fired up the afterburners (this is a sub from the future folks, work with me here) and gave it all he had. He made it literally within a few inches of being home-free when I put the screws to him to keep him from making it all the way to the log and breaking my heart. Little did I know he was about to break something else of mine.

I managed to pull him downstream a couple of feet of the log and into safer waters (safer ... yeah ... right). Then, in a split second, he shot straight downstream, my rod doubled over into a shape in which I've never seen it before, and then ... it happened. My rod came apart ... or so I thought. I said to Bonedog, "Aw man, my rod came apart." To which, Bonedog replied, "I don't think so, man. I think your rod just broke in half."

Continued on next page. ...

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Fishing tales

Yep. He was right. Broken in half it was. And immediately the entire feel of the fight changed. For a half a second there was no more tension on the line. *Did he get off???!!!* I turned to face the fish downstream to try to see if the fish was even still on. Then the leader snapped tight again! It was!!! Hot dog! Then I thought, "Now I HAVE to land this fish. There is *no way* I'm walking away from this with a broken rod *and* an empty net."

What I didn't know was that at this point, the battle was only half over. By now, my arm was getting sore. Not to mention, this U-boat has taken the last half of my rod down into the deep and my sighter is coming out of the third guide of my stiff-as-a-board half-rod at a 90-degree angle. I'm looking at all that stress on the sighter at that guide and just hoping that it doesn't snap under all of that tension. Thankfully I tied on 4X tippet that morn-ing, but dang. Dude's already broken my rod in half, what's to stop him from snapping my tippet?

Over the next five minutes I tried numerous times to gently (as gently as you can pull a washing machine off the bottom of a pool with 4X) get him up to the surface so I could net him, but to no avail. I would get close time after time after time, but he still had enough energy to get spooked and swim off.

After a bare minimum of five attempts to get him in the net that were so close that I could feel the net bump the mass that was his body, there was still a huge question mark looming over him. He was still out there and my net was still empty - and my rod was still broken in half.

By now he was starting to slow down. So, one more time, I gently pulled him back towards me and, when he came up to the surface, I jammed the net into the water and . . . BOOOOOOOOMMMM!!!!!! It was the victory cry heard round the world! You would have thought Bonedog and I had just won the Olympic gold in . . . something with two people. Yeaaaahhhhh!!! I didn't care one bit that my rod was now two rods, all I cared about was that this battle had been won!

We revived the fish in the net before running the tape on it - 21 1/2 inches in length x 13 1/2 inches in girth and right at five pounds. After getting a few pics, we released it. That was by far the hardest fighting 11-incher I've ever done battle with.



WHAAaaaaa WHOoooooooo!!



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Fishing tales

From Georgia DNR: On November 16th, Georgia Department of Natural Resource's staff in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and their contracted helicopter, stocked the Chattooga River and the West Fork of the Chattooga River with nearly 10,000 trout. These stockings are done annually in areas inaccessible to our stocking trucks. To purchase a license or for more information about trout fishing in Georgia, visit our web page at <u>www.gofishgeorgia.com</u>.



One of our scouts and Stream Explorer, Trey McFalls, son of Jerry & Vicki McFalls recently had a great day on the Chattooga River!!









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MEMBERSHIP NEWS & UPDATES

Current membership: 178 members, 25 life members, 12 stream explorers **Thanks for re-upping your membership:** Sid Berkstresser, Kyle Burrell, Broderick & Michele Crawford, John Hoppes, Nick McDougald, David Nichols, Brian Weeks.

Time to renew your membership: Tony Allred, Hector Balderas, Margaret Richardson, Spencer Talley.

Please keep Terry Rivers and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Terry's youngest brother is battling cancer.

Also, please keep Elizabeth Perry (Steve Perry's wife) in your thoughts and prayers. She is currently in the hospital in Asheville, NC with possible pancreatitis.

Don't forget to keep up with the Foxfire Boys and all their happenings at the Nichols Center by visiting their face book page. Click <u>here</u> to check out the calendar of events.





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Rabun TU Officers & Directors for F/Y2015

Voting Board of Directors :			
President Steve Perry	Nominating Committee Chair , Project Healing Waters, BOD Agenda, Budget	(828)-371-1633	flygide@gmail.com
Vice President Kent Wilson	Mack Martin Rod Raffle, Property Manager	706-746-7488	kandcwilson@windstream.net
Treasurer Joel Wise	Reports & Budget	706-782-7538	jwise@windstream.net
Secretary Kathy Breithaupt	BOD Minutes, Correspondence, Records	706-6954	knc615@windstream.net
Past President Pat Hopton	Social Media & Leadership Support & Dream Trip Ticket Sales	706-782-4978	<u>scotts_creek58@yahoo.com</u>
Director - 2016 Jerry McFalls	Liaison with Local Scouts, Stream Projects, Safety Coordinator, Trout in the Classroom & Annual Indian Lake Cookout	706-782-8357	<u>threeforksadventures@hotmail.com</u>
Director - 2016 Ray King	Rabun Rendezvous, Audio- Visual Set Up	828-349-2786	rayking@frontier.com
Director - 2017 Gordon Vanderpool			<u>turningstonesflyfish-</u> <u>ing@yahoo.com</u>
Director - 2017 Charlie Breithaupt	Trout Camp, Fly Fishing 101	706-782-6954	knc615@windstream.net
Director - 2018 Mike Fuller			david2053@windstream.net
Director - 2018 Frank Tolbert	Media Outreach		<u>frankdavidtolbert@gmail.con</u>
Director - 2019 Ray Gentry			
Director - 2019 David Ruth			
Non Voting Leaders :			
Charlie & Kathy Breithaupt	Trout Camp, Fly Fishing 101	706-782-6954	<u>knc615@windstream.net</u>
Michele Crawford	Tight lines Editor, Women's Out- reach, Memorials	706-490-4574	<u>crawfordart@windstream.net</u>
Terry Rivers	Fly Tying Workshops	706-782-7419	<u>tlr1121@windstream.net</u>
Larry Walker	Advocacy Director		
Jeff Durniak	Meeting Programs & hosting speaker to dinner	706-892-6576	jeffdurniak@yahoo.com
Sid Berkstresser	Chairman of Membership Re- cruitment & Retention		<u>sidberk3@windstrem.net</u>
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