



TIGHT LINES

May 2019 Newsletter

of the

Rabun Chapter (522) Trout Unlimited

The mission of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited is to conserve, protect, and restore Northeast Georgia's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

[CLICK HERE](#)

to visit our Award Winning Website!



There will be no monthly Rabun Chapter meeting in May.
Instead, you are invited to the

***Rabun Chapter Cookout on "The River "
Tuesday, May 21***

We will gather on the Chattooga River in the parking lot on the Georgia side at Burrell's Ford for hot dogs and all the fixings. Kathy and Charlie Breithaupt will bring all the food , including drinks, and do the cooking.

Supper time will be 6:30 PM. Please bring your own chair and stronger drink, if you want. You may fish before or after supper or both. Maybe we'll see the twinkies and fairies. Or you don't have fish at all - just come to sit and fellowship by the river.

IMPORTANT: Contact Kathy & Charlie (knc615@windstream.net) by Friday May 18 to let them know you will attend.

To get to Burrells Ford: from Clayton, GA take Warwoman Road to GA Hwy 28 Turn right (east) onto Hwy 28. Go 2 miles, turn left onto Forest Service Road 161. Go 4 miles to the bridge across the Chattooga River. The cookout will be at the parking area on the right just before you cross the bridge.

Forward Casting - Important Dates for the Next Two Months

May 3-5 (Fri-Sun) Trout Unlimited Southeastern Rally. Dillard House Conference Center, Dillard GA. Sponsored by National Trout Unlimited. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

May 4 (Sat) Rock Creek Kids Fishing Event. 8:00 am—12:00 pm at Rock Creek near Fairmount, GA. Sponsored by the [Coosa Valley Chapter](#) and US Forest Service. [CLICK HERE](#) for directions.

May 14 (Tues) GA Delayed Harvest Season Ends.

No scheduled Chapter Monthly Meeting for May.

May 21 (Tues) Rabun Chapter Cookout and Fishing on “The River”. Hot dog supper and fellowship at 6:30 pm at the parking lot on the GA side of the Burrells Ford bridge. Fishing before and after supper. Contact [Charlie Breithaupt](#). See Page 1 for more details.

May 28 (Tues) Rabun Chapter Board of Directors Meeting. Gate opens at 3:00 pm, meeting begins at 6:30 pm. To be held at an undisclosed location in North Carolina. Anyone may attend, contact [Pat Hopton](#) for more details.

June 2-7 (Sun-Fri) Trout Camp. To be held at Tallulah Falls School. Contact [Charlie or Kathy Breithaupt](#) for more information.

June 5 (Wed) Martin Branch Stream Improvement Project. Meet at 8:00 am at the gate of FS Road 178 on Chattahoochee WMA. Sponsored by the US Forest Service and the [GA Foothills Chapter](#).

June 8 (Sat) Tallulah River Kids Fishing Event. To be held at Tallulah River Campground from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Sponsored by the US Forest Service and the [Rabun Chapter](#).

June 15 (Sat) Cave Springs Kids Fishing Event. To be held at Cave Springs from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Sponsored by the US Forest Service and the [Coosa Valley Chapter](#).

June 18 (Tue) Rabun Chapter Monthly Meeting. Fellowship begins at 6:30 pm, meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church, Dillard, GA. Contact [Kent Wilson](#).

June 22 (Sat) GA Council TU Quarterly Meeting. To be held from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Flinchums Phoenix in Athen, GA. Anyone may attend. Contact [Kent Wilson](#).

June 25 (Tue) Rabun Chapter Board of Directors Meeting. 6:30 pm at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church. Anyone can attend. Contact [Kent Wilson](#).

Fishing in rainy conditions may make fisherman seem crazy to the great mass of unimaginative people, but then few fishermen care what they think.

John Gierach

Rabun Chapter Caps Will Be For Sale at the Chapter Meetings

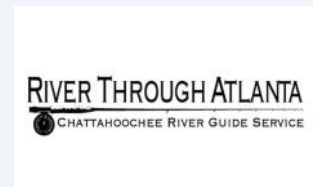
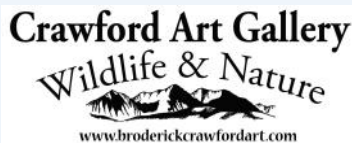
Baseball-style caps in various colors with the “Rabun Chapter TU” logo will be available to purchase at the monthly Chapter meetings.

Cost is \$15 per cap.

Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more details.



Click on the Images and Visit the Websites of our Sponsors



Thank you, Sponsors! We appreciate your support of the Rabun Chapter!

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

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Elk Hair Caddis

HOOK: Dry Fly Hook #12-16

BODY: Cream Fine Dubbing Palmered Brown Hackle

WING: Elk Hair



GREAT FLY TO HAVE ON THE RIVER. CADDIS LARVA ARE WAKING UP AND EMERGING TO SPREAD THEIR WINGS TO FLY AND MATE AND MAKE MORE CADDIS.

See you on The River! Terry

MAY Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
None at all	All Month	All Day	Dredging Nymphs:12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, Pheasant Tail
Gray, Brown Caddis	All month	L pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12-14 Quill Gordon Nymph
Red Quill Mayfly	All month	All day	12-14 Hendrickson 14 Red Quill
Light Cahill Mayfly*	Late	E to L pm	12-14 Light Cahill 12-14 Light Cahill Nymph
March Brown Mayfly*	All Month	L am to M pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 March Brown Nymph, Dark Hare's Ear, or Pheasant Tail
Sulphur Mayfly *	All Month	L pm	12-14 Sulphur Parachute 12-18 Sulphur Dun
Green Drake Mayfly*	Mid-Late	L am to L pm	8-10 Green Drake Mayfly
Coffin Fly*	Mid-Late	L pm to dark 30	8-10 White Spentwing 8-10 Coffin Fly Parachute
Yellow Stonefly	Late	E to L am L pm to dark	14-16 Yellow Stimulator or Elk Hair Caddis (Yellow) 14-16 Yellow Stone Nymph
Giant Black Stonefly	All month	E am	4-8 Black Stonefly Nymph 8 Dark Stonefly Nymph

* **IMPORTANT!**

Hot tip: Don't leave early. Go late and stay later. Carry a flashlight! Many times the trout won't rise until the sun starts going down and the bugs come out to find a mate.

"The tallest tale in fly-fishing is, as it should be, not about a fish but about a fly. Its name is the Green Drake. It is said to exist as an insect in nature, and so it does in the telling. The question, inescapable but never resolved, is whether the Green Drake is an imaginary being."

John McDonald

Editor's Note: Yes, John, the Green Drake does exist! *Ephemera guttulata* or the **Eastern Green Drake** is a species of [mayfly](#) in the genus [Ephemera](#). It can be found in portions of the Upper Backcountry of the Chattooga River, along with other streams and rivers in northeast Georgia and western North Carolina.

Look for the hatch to begin the second or third week in May, depending on the weather and stream conditions. The hatch is short-lived, so really the only way to "catch it" is to be there every evening. Once you do catch it, be sure to stay until much after dark for when the spinner, known as coffin flies, come to the water to lay eggs and die.

Areas where Green Drakes are found are often closely-guarded secrets—and rightly so. Part of the fun of fishing the Green Drake hatch is finding them yourselves. Look for streams and rivers with high water quality and areas of soft, mucky bottoms.

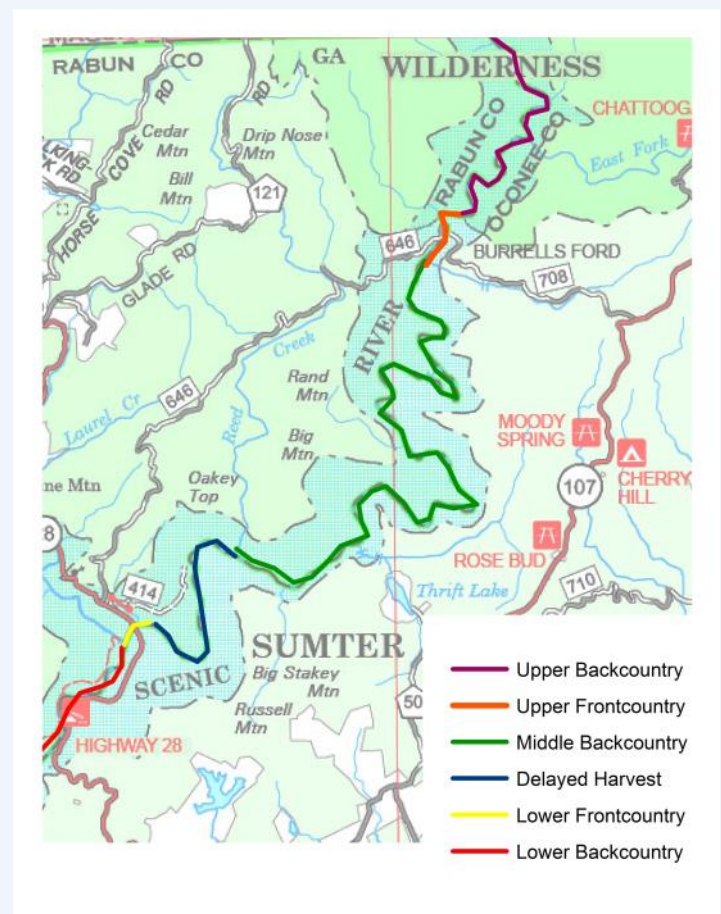
An old friend once told me this one of the few times that the big, wild brown trout in the Chattooga River can be caught on dry flies and I believe him.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a good article on the Green Drakes in North Carolina.

Green Drake dun



Green Drake spinner, aka Coffin Fly



Mack Martin Rod Raffle

Once again, Mack Martin of the [Atlanta Fly Fishing School](#) has graciously donated a custom-built fly rod and reel to the Rabun Chapter to be used for fund raising. *Thank you, Mack!*

This year the rod is a four piece, 8' length, 3 weight [Winston AIR](#) fly rod. Mack says "I have one and it feels like a feather in my hand!" The reel is a [TFO BVK](#) 1 Large Arbor reel.

Raffle tickets cost \$3.00 each or four tickets for \$10.00. The drawing for the rod and reel will be held Tuesday, July 16 at the Chapter Family Cookout at Kelly's Water Park.

See [Pat Hopton](#) or any Board of Director member to purchase tickets.



**Rabun Chapter Trout Unlimited
Fly Rod & TFO Reel Raffle**
Winston 8', 4 piece, 3 wt. AIR
Boron/Graphite rod & TFO BVK reel
Raffle tickets \$3.00 each or 4 for \$10.00

*Drawing will be July 2019 at
the Rabun TU chapter picnic.*



*Rod & reel donated by
Atlanta Fly Fishing School*

Backcasting

Rabun Chapter Spring Campout, April 24-28, 2019 at Oconee State Park

If numbers mean anything then the spring campout was a huge success. At least 35 Rabunites were in camp...either for several days or for a meal or to just sit by the fire, which burned for 5 days.

The fishing was pretty good in spite of high water and the rain, though threatening, stayed away. However, the pollen arrived in force as we walked around in a yellowish haze most of the time.

Friday night 31 folks showed up for the fish fry, which really wasn't trout but good anyway. Kathy and Charlie Breithaupt, campout hosts, assisted by Terry Rivers (hushpuppies), Wayne Prosser (low country boil) and Ray Gentry (fish fryer) provided a feast that left no one hungry.

During the week Teri and Tony Allred, Monty English, Claudia and Glenn English, Jimmy Whiten and Phil Upchurch, Tammy and Pat Hopton, Patrick Crawford and Justin English cooked either breakfast or supper for the crowd.

Our newly started tradition of reading of Cowboy Poetry was continued as Pat and Charlie both read aloud favorites of open land, sagebrush, honest work and The Great Divide.

It was good to see familiar faces and some new ones around the campfire, a great place for bonding and making new friends.

Report submitted by Charlie Breithaupt and photos submitted by Pat Hopton



Backcasting, cont.

Rabun Chapter Spring Campout, April 24-28, 2019 at Oconee State Park

We had a great Spring chapter campout The weather was just about perfect. The food was tasty and the Fellowship beyond description. I do believe that our Spring campout was one of the most attended that I remembered.

I pulled my camper over Tuesday and broke camp on Sunday. I Had the pleasure of having my grandson for Friday and Saturday. Torin and I went fishing Sat. morning He has done very little fishing but I put him on some Brook trout and he was able to catch a limit to take home with him for his family to eat. I think Torin is hooked on this fishing game.

One of the highlights of the trip was our Friday night fish fry and low country boil. 31 chapter members and guests were in attendance. A good time had by all. All of our meals were wonderful. Thanks to all of our chapter cooks.

Saturday night the Hoptons cooked chili that was yummy and after the meal Pat H. and Charlie B read to all of us some cowboy poetry by our warm ambient camp fire. There were, of course, fishing and some catching. Members were on our waters every day and from the reports, trout were lead into various trout nets.

When all was said and done, we had a great time and looking forward to our next campout in the Fall.

Report and photos submitted by Mike Fuller



Backcasting, cont.

Rabun Chapter Scouts Appreciation Dinner April 16, 2019 at Indian Lake, RGNS

On Tuesday, April 16, 2019 the Rabun Chapter once again hosted scouts from throughout Rabun County for the annual Scout Cookout. The event, which was rain free for a change, included approximately sixty-two (62) members of the scouting family consisting of scouts and scout leaders along with parents and siblings.

The group gathered at Indian Lake on the campus of Rabun Gap Nacoochee School where the scouts had the opportunity to spend time fishing both before and after meal time. Rabunite Ray Gentry was on hand to distribute fishing reels, which he had refurbished, to each of the scouts in attendance.

Perhaps the event was best summed up by Scout Leader Lisa Broz who stated “Tonight all the scouts from Rabun County were invited to come out to share a love of fishing that clearly bridges all ages and generations. From the youngest Cub Scouts in the new kindergarten Lion program to the oldest Boy Scouts who are in 12th grade and Eagles everyone had so much fun. The Cubs are from Pack 6, the two young ladies are from Rabun Girl Scout Troop 10186, and the young men are from Rabun County Boy Scout Troops 6, 19, and 40. No Technology, no hi tech contraptions...simple fellowship, great food, and a generation of Trout Unlimited skilled fisherman sharing their love of fishing! Time Less!”

On behalf of the chapter, I would like to express our appreciation to all the members of the scout family who attended this event. The Rabunites are always excited to have the opportunity to host this event and interact with this amazing group of kids/young adults. I would like to also express my personal appreciation to the chapter members who assisted in making this event successful.

Report submitted by Kent Wilson and photo submitted by Steve Perry



Another reason to love fishing in the Southern Appalachians during spring.... wildflowers!



Showy Orchis



Trillium



Trout Lily

Photos submitted by Tammy Hopton

Backcasting

Rabunite Fly Fishing 101, April 6, 2019 at Clayton Methodist Church

Our half-day fly fishing seminar known as “Rabunite 101” was fully-enrolled this year. Twenty-eight participants, including 13 from Project Healing Waters, spent their time learning the basics of the art and sport of fly fishing.

Steve Perry, along with Kent Wilson, taught the skills of casting while Terry Rivers and Jimmy Whiten instructed in knot tying. Pat Hopton, assisted by Doug Adams, presented a session on equipment. Jeff Durniak taught the basics of entomology and was assisted by Ben Deal.

Other Rabunites were there to help Kathy and Charlie Breithaupt who put the event together. Tammy Hopton, Tony and Terri Allred, Wayne Prosser and David Ruth pitched in with a variety of tasks. The Rabunites provided lunch for the Project Healing Waters folks who have served our country so well. Thank you!!

This program is a great way to “jump start” into fly fishing and we just sent 28 new and eager fly fishers out into the streams. *Way to go Rabunites!*

Report submitted by Charlie Breihaupt and photos submitted by Michele Crawford



FISHING REPORTS

Send your fishing reports to [TIGHTLINES EDITOR](#)

Editors Note: On Saturday , April 6, several Rabunites took the veterans from Project Healing Waters that had attended Rabunite Fly Fishing 101 to Smith's Creek for an afternoon of fishing. Here is a report and pictures submitted by Brian Weeks:

Below are a couple of pictures from Saturday at Smith Creek with the vets. The weather was gorgeous and the water was in good condition for fishing - about 57F with a slight stain to it.

One of the vets I was with caught his first trout ever – a 14"rainbow. Needless to say, that was exciting for us both.

Everyone had an enjoyable day, beginning with the 101 in the morning and continuing on by putting their newly learned skills into practice. I'm thankful to have been a part of this and I'm looking forward to next time. Thank you, vets, for your service to our country.



Trip Report to Tallulah River, submitted by Justin English.

Nice sunny afternoon with no rain. River was still high. Got to go take advantage of the recent stockings with a friend, and managed to get our limit of nice size trout thanks to the extra funds from the fishing license! Great smoked trout to end the day.



FISHING REPORTS, Cont.

Send your fishing reports to [TIGHTLINES EDITOR](#)

April 10, 2019 on The River, submitted by Pat and Tammy Hopton

We made it to the River about 5:30. On the walk in, we saw lots of trilliums just starting to bloom.

We started fishing at the usual pool. I caught a beauty at the very head of the pool, on the far side, in a foam-covered eddy. Was using a #16 parachute adams with a soft hackle trailer, the fish came up and slammed the dry fly. My best Chattooga brown so far this year, about 13".

Tammy fished the next pool up, with the big slab rock on the far side. She caught one and lost one. I lost one in the same pool. The river was high so we had to be careful crossing to the other side. (Yes, we were wet wading.) Tammy caught another bnt in the next pool up.

I went up to the long run with the overhanging mtn laurel, just below the crossing spot. I caught another good 'un at the tail of the pool. Nothing under the mtn laurel. Tammy came up and fished the head of that pool and caught a good 'un, about 12". It slipped away before we could get a picture. That's as far as we made it before the switch turned off.

Every fish was fat, healthy, wild, and had beautiful colors. I surely do love those wild Chattooga browns. Lots of wood in the river, not so much from hemlocks but just from trees falling. There was a very good hatch of red dun mayflies, lots of rising and jumping fish the last hour of evening. No dark-thirty action yet.

We got back to the Subaru around 9:00 and had beer and wine, Vienna sausages and crackers. Tammy said it was a perfect evening. I'm a lucky man.



FOR WILD TROUT - IT PAYS TO HAVE THE RIGHT APPROACH!

(Reprinted from May, 2005 Tightlines)

When fishing for wild trout, an angler needs some skills and a lot of luck to be successful. But an angler can increase his chances by not underestimating the wariness of wild trout.

Wild trout rely heavily on their eyes, and to a lesser extent their senses of smell and hearing and their ability to pick up vibrations in the water. A trout holding in the bottom of a deep clear pool can easily see a tiny mayfly land on the surface. The same trout also can spot a small nymph being carried by the current towards it. With such keen eyesight, there's no question that same trout also will see the shadow of an osprey hovering overhead, or the profile of an angler who has ventured too close.

Many anglers put themselves at a huge disadvantage before they even make their first cast. It's critical that wild trout anglers exercise extreme caution when approaching the water they wish to fish. The water where trout are found is often clear and shallow. The fish regularly hold just off the bank. These conditions make wild trout especially wary, because they know they're susceptible to predators. Simply by walking up to the water, most anglers spook the trout they are seeking and send them off to more secure locations.

There are several things you can do to improve your chances of catching wild trout:

Wear dull-colored clothing, including your hat! The hat is the first thing that comes into a trout's window of vision. Try to blend in with the background vegetation. Camouflage or dark/dull earth-tone apparel is best, including the fishing vest. A dull finish rod might not look as good in the parking lot but the flash of the sun from a bright shiny rod can send a wild trout to cover. To take a page from the wild turkey hunter's manual, always use maximum stealth.

Invest in a good pair of polarized sunglasses. One of the keys to successful wild trout fishing is seeing the fish before they see you. They will allow you to see through the surface glare into the trout's underwater world. They will also help you to see the bottom for quieter wading.

Approach like a heron! When you get a chance, watch a great blue heron stalk a fish, it is sneaky. The angler's actual approach to the bank calls for a high level of sneakiness. Be on full alert. Stop several times to observe what is happening on or under the water.

Camouflage, cover and concealment! Take advantage of hiding places behind natural cover, such a laurel bush, a rock, or a tree trunk. If you see a trout (or a promising-looking holding spot) in the water in front of you, circle downstream staying well away from the water. In water that is extremely small (a shallow and narrow stream), you might have to kneel well back from the water and dapple your lure over the bank, or flip out a cast at a trout you've spotted. As you get closer to the water, move slowly with measured steps, carefully placing each foot down softly and avoiding kicking rocks, sticks or anything else in the water. Then you can start to cast. Make your first cast count, it could be the only one get before the trout spook.

Rabun Chapter Membership Update

Current membership: 164 adult members and 6 Stream Explorers.

Welcome New Members!

Sandy Strong from Lakemont, GA.

Thanks for Re-Uping!

Doug Adams, Robert Clifford, Hal Howard, Ray King, Ron Michaels, Steve Perry, Margaret Richardson, Pom Sinnock, Paul Strong, Bradley Tucker, Michael Williams, and Leigh Wyatt.

Members That Need to Re-Up!

John Heeney and Scott Low.

You are Invited to Join Trout Unlimited!

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the membership page of Trout Unlimited. Once you join, TU will assign you to the nearest Chapter according to your Zip Code. If you wish to be a member of the Rabun Chapter regardless of your Zip Code, specify Chapter 522 in your application.

If you have any questions, contact the Rabun Chapter Membership Chair [Mike Fuller](#).

We look forward to having you in our Chapter!

Rabun Chapter Leadership Contacts

Voting Leaders

Kent Wilson	Chapter President
Jeff Durniak	Chapter Vice President
Charlie Breithaupt	Treasurer
Kathy Breithaupt	Secretary
Steve Perry	Past President
Doug Adams	Director Emeritus
Ray King	Rendezvous Chair
Frank Patton	Director thru 2019
David Ruth	Director thru 2019
Brian Weeks	Director thru 2020
Tony Allred	Director thru 2020
Justin English	Director thru 2021
Terry Rivers	Director thru 2021
Tammy Hopton	Director thru 2022
Jimmy Whiten	Director thru 2022

Non-Voting Leaders

Michele Crawford	Women's Outreach, Memorials
Larry Walker	Advocacy
Pat Hopton	Tight Lines Editor
Jerry McFalls	Scouts Liaison, Trout in the
	Class Room
Mike Fuller	Membership Chair

Prez Notes

Spring has officially arrived and the Rabun Chapter continues to take full advantage of the improving weather. Not to steal anyone's thunder, but I would like to briefly highlight some recently concluded chapter activities as well as some upcoming ones that will be detailed in this issue.

The annual Scout Cookout took place in April this year. This was done in an effort to better accommodate the extremely busy schedule of the many scouts from throughout Rabun County. The new date proved to work out well based on the numbers of scouts who came out to enjoy the beautiful spring afternoon.

The chapter's Spring Campout concluded on April 28th. A number of Rabunites along with friends and family gathered at Oconee State Park where they enjoyed five days of fishing and fellowship.

Be sure to check out the Forward Casting section of the newsletter for details relating to the chapters upcoming outing to Burrell's Ford where we will enjoy an afternoon/evening of fishing the Chattooga River followed by a communal meal hosted by Rabunites Kathy and Charlie Breithaupt. If you would like to witness some Rabunite demonstrating their skills on the river this would be an excellent opportunity.

Rabunite Scott Low will be hosting the Stonedfly Classic which is a charity fishing event benefitting Project Healing Waters at Hatch Camp and Art Farm on May 18, 2019. The event will feature ten two-person teams and spectators are welcomed to come out and spend the day enjoying the activities at Hatch Camp which is located on beautiful Warwoman Creek. You are also encouraged to contact Scott to schedule some quality time on the river for your own fishing pleasure.

June will see the return of our regularly scheduled chapter meeting. Stay tuned for further details relating to that.

If you are interested in learning more about cold water conservation and/or would just like to interact with fellow trout fishing enthusiasts who call this beautiful area home then please plan to join us at any of the upcoming events that are outlined in this newsletter. Your attendance is always welcomed!

Kent Wilson