



TIGHT LINES

January 2020 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!



Rabun Chapter Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, January 14

Fellowship Hall of Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church

8397 Wolffork Road, Rabun Gap, GA

Fellowship begins at 6:30 pm

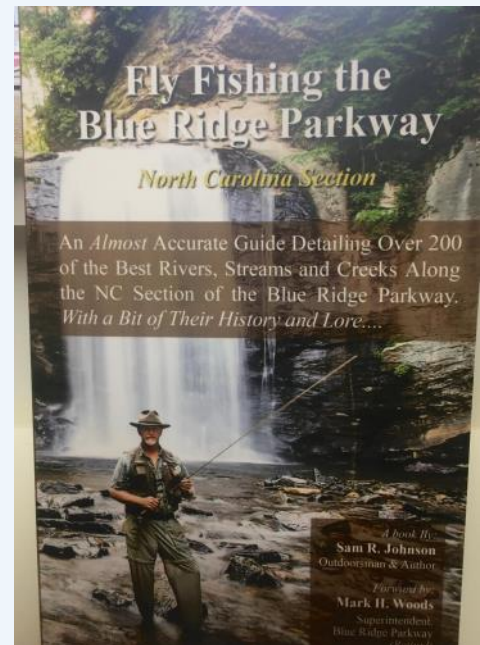
Meeting begins at 7:00 pm

Gold Rush TU'er and avid mountain trouterman Sam Johnson will give a program on his newly published book, "Flyfishing the Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina Section."

I do believe he said! If you wanna know what he said, show up for our January 14 meeting. And if you want to remember what he said, bring some bucks for his book!

Let's have a big Rabunite turnout for our fellow TU'er and avid angler from the Gold Rush Chapter, Sam Johnson. See you on the 14th!

<https://wildbearings.com/>



Forward Casting - Important Dates for the Next Two Months

Jan 7 (Tues) Rabun Chapter Board of Directors Meeting. 6:30 pm at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church. Anyone can attend. Contact [Kent Wilson](#).

Jan 14 (Tues) Monthly Chapter Meeting. 6:30 pm at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church in Rabun Gap, GA. Contact [Kent Wilson](#).

Jan 18 (Sat) 33rd Annual Rabun Rendezvous. Dillard House Conference Center, Dillard, GA. Contact [Ray King](#). See page 3 for more details.

Feb 1 (Sat) Annual Planning Meeting. 8:00 am at the Dillard House Restaurant in Dillard, GA. Anyone can attend. Contact [Kent Wilson](#).

Feb 18 (Tues) Monthly Chapter Meeting. 6:30 pm at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church in Rabun Gap, GA. Contact [Kent Wilson](#).

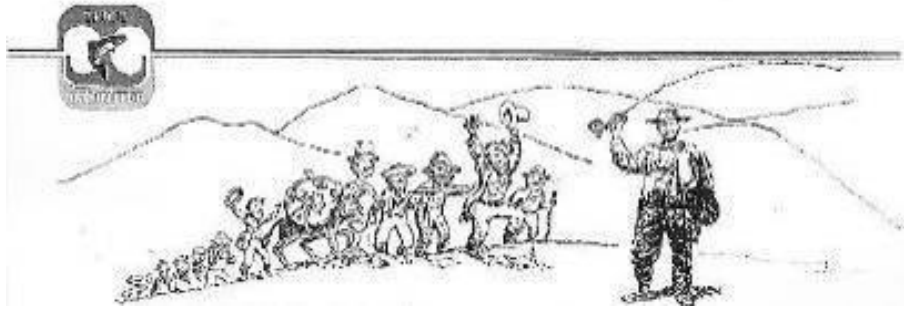
Feb 25 (Tues) Rabun Chapter Board of Directors Meeting. 6:30 pm at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church. Anyone can attend. Contact [Kent Wilson](#).

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.



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

Please join us for the 33rd Annual **RABUN RENDEZVOUS**

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

WHEN: Saturday, January 18, 2020.

WHERE: The Dillard House Conference Center, located behind the Dillard House Restaurant in Dillard, GA.

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

SOCIAL: Doors open at 3:00 pm. Around 4:30 pm folks will start gathering to "pick the pig" and enjoy the rocking chairs on the porch of the Conference Center. There will snack trays of cheese, crackers, veggies with dip, and fruit. Soft drinks and ice will available. There will be a nice fire inside to warm your buns. *Please note the earlier start time from previous years.*

The Foxfire Boys will again provide their 'down home' style of bluegrass picking and singing for your enjoyment from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. CD's will be available for purchase.

Raffle and silent auction items will be available for your chance of purchase. We welcome donations of raffle and auction items!

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

Please note there will be no guest speaker this year. For this reason, we anticipate concluding the Rendezvous at an earlier time than previous years.

COST: \$35 for adults and \$25 for youth age 15 and younger. Cash, check, VISA or MasterCard are accepted. Pay at the door when you arrive.

LODGING: The Dillard House has set special rates for rooms starting at \$79 (plus tax) for those that make reservation and say they are attending the Trout Unlimited Rabun Rendezvous.

The 2019 Rabun Rendezvous provided financial support for the following: GA Council Youth Trout Camp; Sponsoring youth to attend Trout Camp; GA Department of Natural Resources Smithgall Woods Conservation Education Program; US Forest Service Kid's Fishing Event at Tallulah River; Fly-Fishing 101 educational event; Helicopter stocking program; In-stream habitat improvement on a brook trout stream; Casting for Recovery; Fly Fishing for Vets; National TU's Youth Education, First Cast, Embrace-A-Stream, Griffiths Circle, and Southeast Lands program; GA Council Conservation fund; and providing Trout magazine subscriptions to all Rabun County schools, public libraries, and Tallulah Gorge State Park.

TO ALL RABUNITES:

The 33rd Annual Rabun Rendezvous is rapidly approaching. The funds we raise are used to support Trout Unlimited efforts for cold water conservation and education.

Your donations are an integral part of that support! Donations to our event are starting to arrive and we'll continue to update and publicize the list of items every couple of weeks. Hopefully, this will provide our prospective attendees the opportunity to identify some of the items in which they may be most interested.

Please consider a donation to the Rendezvous. Need an idea for what you can donate? Art, crafts (wood working, fishing flies, etc.), a campout with fishing, a day of lake fishing, a day of deer hunting on a lease, a day of wild turkey hunting, vacations, golf packages, raft trips, weekend use of mountain cabins or condos at beach, and goodies from the kitchens of the Rabunites (cakes, breads, baskets with canned veggies, jams, jellies and preserves) have always been popular with our guests.

If you don't have an item to donate, that's alright! Please consider donating your time at the Rendezvous. We need volunteers to help staff the registration table, assist in the bucket raffle and silent auction events, and to meet and greet the folks who come out to support our great chapter.

And you could also consider making a cash donation to the chapter. You can send it to my address or provide it to a Board of Directors member. We are working on setting up a PayPal account to make it easier to donate. More on that in the coming days.

Thank you for your support of the Rabun Chapter Trout Unlimited!

Ray King – Rabun Rendezvous Chair
121 Creek Road
Otto, North Carolina 28763-9356

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



October 1, 2019

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited is planning our annual fund raising event and we are asking for your support. For the 33rd year we will host the famous "RABUN RENDEZVOUS" to be held on January 18, 2020 at the Dillard House Conference Center, Dillard, GA. Along with a buffet meal and great bluegrass music we will have a silent auction, bucket raffle and door prizes.

Our Chapter is committed to protecting and improving the cold-water fisheries in our area and supporting other chapters in their efforts. However, it takes funds to provide the support, equipment, and expenses required to carry out this mission. The annual Rabun Rendezvous is our main source of funding for these efforts.

Last year our Chapter raised approximately eight thousand dollars at the Rabun Rendezvous, all of which went into projects to support the mission of TU. Here are a few examples of the projects we accomplished with the funds received from last year's Rendezvous:

- Financial support for GA Council Trout Unlimited Youth Trout Camp;
- Sponsoring youngsters to attend the Trout Unlimited Youth Trout Camp;
- Financial support of the GA Department of Natural Resources Smithgall Woods Conservation Education Program;
- Financial support for the Kid's Fishing Event at Tallulah River (US Forest Service);
- Fly-Fishing 101 Education Event
- Helicopter Stocking Program
- In-stream habitat improvement workday with USFS on a Rabun County brook trout stream;
- Financial support for Casting For Recovery and Fly Fishing for Vets Wounded Warriors Program;
- Financial support for National TU's Youth Education, First Cast, Embrace-A-Stream, General Fund – Griffith Circle & Southeast Lands programs;
- Georgia Council Conservation
- And Trout Magazine subscriptions to all school & public libraries and one State Park in Rabun County.

With this letter we are respectfully asking you for a donation to support our mission of protecting and improving the cold-water fisheries in our area. We are appreciative of any donation, such as gift certificates or physical items that may be included in the raffles or auctions, or through cash donations. Appropriate recognition will be given to donors at both the event and through our monthly newsletter. Our non-profit Federal Tax Exempt 501(c)3 Tax ID Number is # 521766093 and our Georgia State Tax ID is # 067800056.

Please take time to visit www.rabuntu.org and look at the photos from last year's Rabun Rendezvous. And of course, you and your family and friends are invited to attend this year's event!

Thank you for your consideration of support for the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Rabun Rendezvous fund raising event.

Sincerely;

KENT WILSON

Kent Wilson, President
Email: kandcwilson@windstream.net

Ray King

Ray King, Rendezvous Chair
Email: rayking@frontier.com

PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TO:
Ray King, Board of Directors
Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Mailing Address: 121 Creek Road
Otto, NC 28763

UPS Shipping Address: 121 Creek Road
Otto, NC 28763

“As always I am looking forward to the Rendezvous, it's like a big old family reunion.”

Garland Stewart



Backcasting

Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner

Dillard House Restaurant

December 9, 2019

A large turnout of Rabun Chapter members and guests attended the annual Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 9 at the Dillard House Restaurant. We enjoyed a delicious meal of pork, chicken, vegetables, bread, tea, coffee and a variety of sumptuous deserts. Also many folks brought an unwrapped present for a child and these were later donated to Toys for Tots. Way to go, Rabunites!

Rabunite Recons

We're announcing a new program in the new year: Rabunite Recons. These are short-notice invitations to members to go fishing. They're meant to complement and not replace the great trips, planned well in advance, by Mike, Charlie, and other Rabunites who have full family schedules and prefer to plan their fishing trips way ahead of time.

We hope to use Mike's fishing trip email list as the method to announce sudden trips and meet up, likely streamside.

Semi-retirement now affords me more fishing time, especially on weekdays. I typically let the three W's dictate my trip plans for the coming day(s). When my Work schedule, Weather forecast, and Water level "stars" align, I go fishing. Hopefully I'll "catch" more than "fish". And that might appeal to some chapter members, especially our newer folks who could use a little instream advice and may have the ability to go fishing on short notice.

Example Dredger email, which Mike would distribute:

"Gonna hit Nan DH tomorrow. Should get there around 1 and will stay til dark around 6. Black Sentra with White County plates. Will depart Cleveland around 11:15 and go thru Hiawassee."

Let's give it a try. I'm going fishing anyway. If anyone wants to tag along, I'd love the streamside company. Just know that I go at prime angling times and stay through those prime times. I don't hang out first at huddle house or come back early for supper or soccer practice. Folks with commitments are welcome to join me astream late or leave early. Others as ruint as me are welcome to hop in for my Dredger marathons.

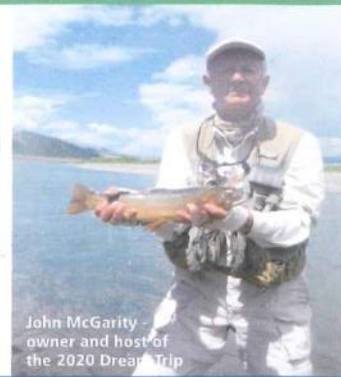
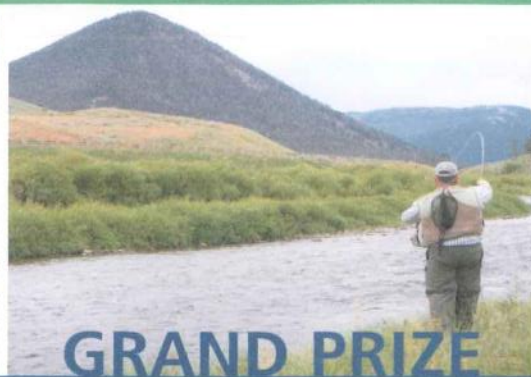
Get ready for some short notice invitations. And whether you're a big planner or a spur-of-moment angler, we hope you're able to fish more in 2020. In honor of my fishing buddy, the dearly departed Ole Rabunite, I will close this note to y'all with the same well-wishes he shared with me each January:

Happy New Fishing Season! Waaahhh HOOO!!!'

Jeff Durniak, aka "The Dredger"



DREAM TRIP - FLY FISHING FOR TWO!



GRAND PRIZE

John McGarity -
owner and host of
the 2020 Dream Trip

"The 2020 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 restaurateur, 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."

—Jimmy Harris,
owner, Unicoi Outfitters

• 5 days hosted fishing / 6 nights lodging in Idaho July 26-31, 2020

• \$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: A float trip on the Madison River, plus choice of Winston AIR 3 wt. - 6 wt. or BILL-x 4 wt. - 8 wt. fly rod. Fly reel with Scientific Anglers or Winston Energy Fly Line and 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:

The winner(s) of this raffle are responsible for any tax due on the value of the winnings.

- TFO- BVK fly rod - 6 wt. 9', 4 piece fly rod. Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- RISE 5-6 fly reel with 5 or 6 wt. Wulff TT fly line. Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- Fly box with 8+ dozen trout flies. Donated by the Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- Fly box with 3 dozen bass poppers. Donated by the Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- Fly box with assortment of Terrestrial flies. Donated by the Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- Complete assortment of fly-tying materials (thread, hooks, dubbing, flash, hackle, hair, beads, marabou, chenille and a few tools. Donated by the Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- Certificate for any Scientific Anglers fly line. Donated by the Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- AFFS gift certificate for a fly fishing or fly-casting class during 2020. 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 having mastered basic casting skills already). Donated by the Atlanta Fly Fishing School for 2020 year
- Witching Hour (4 hour) Trip for Bass on Lanier or Carp on the Chattahoochee in the summer. Donated by Henry Cowen. Trip must be used from end May thru Sept. 2020.
- Gift Certificate valued at \$350 from Big T Fly Fishing Online Outfitter, Fly Shop and Guide Service. Good towards Guide Service or Merchandise. Donated by The Cohutta Chapter of TU
- Unguided half day fishing at Nacoochee Bend for two fishermen: Donated by Unicoi Outfitters.
- \$100 Gift certificate from the Mid-Georgia Chapter.
- Half day trophy brown trout guided float trip for two on Chattahoochee River, valued at \$375: Donated by Chris Scalley River Through Atlanta www.rivertroughatlanta.com
- Two draws of Six dozen trout flies each: Donated by 12 TU chapters in Georgia.



Jimmy Harris, owner of Unicoi Outfitters



Recent winner - Vic Aloisio - Tallapoosa Chapter member



For complete rules and details visit www.georgiatu.org

2020 Dream Trip tickets are now on sale!

Contact **David Ruth**, Ticket Chairperson, or any member of the BOD to purchase tickets.

Fishing Reports
Send your fishing reports to [Tightlines Editor](#)

Fishing the “Big D”
Submitted by Brian Weeks

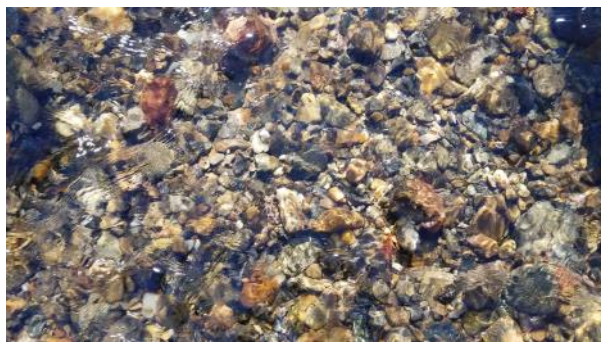
The week before Christmas, I enjoyed a solo trip to the Davidson River near Brevard, NC for a day. With a four hour drive ahead of me, I made sure I woke up early enough (2:30AM) to help ensure a full day of fishing. After brushing my teeth and combing my hair, I was in the truck and on the road at 3AM. At 7AM I pulled in the hatchery parking lot.

As one might expect, given the cold night before (low of 36F) and cold morning water (40F), the parking lot wasn't busy. In fact, other than the federal nature center worker's truck, I was the only one in the parking lot.

After gearing up (yes, I wore waders), I made my way down to the chilly water at the bridge and began to nymph my way up to the hatchery exit water pipe. I had on two flies, the smallest being the point fly - a #18 gray WD40. I had the entire hatchery section, which is not stocked, to myself. But, despite my best efforts in this short stretch, including light tippet, multiple fly changes and stealthy long leader casts, I came up completely dry.

I then decided to drop downstream a ways to fish some less pressured, but still unstocked, water and that's when things started to pick up. The water temp at its peak hit a balmy 41F in mid-afternoon.

All in all, I was able to manage 10-12 to the net. The most notable included a 14" wild brown with a pretty deep yellow belly. No 20+" fish, and no big numbers, but still an enjoyable day on the Big D.



Fishing Reports (cont.)
Send your fishing reports to [Tightlines Editor](#)

Dredger's December Fishing Report
Submitted by Jeff Durniak

Semi-retirement is good! I had a chance to hit trout waters multiple times during the Christmas holidays. Hope y'all did, too. The unseasonable "spring" weather had the waters warm and the fishing hot! Most of my trips and tips are chronicled on the Unicoi Outfitters Facebook (FB) page:

<https://www.facebook.com/unicoioutfitters/posts/10158065847225159>

And a few more are on North Georgia Trout Online. You can spy on that site as a visitor by going to it, then hitting "message board" and "jump right in."

<http://www.georgia-outdoors.com/forum>

And for fellow geezers, like me, who don't want the Chinese government hacking our IRA's and who are NOT FB members, you can still view these public FB pages without being a member. If you wanna know a bit more, from blue wings to buggers, to help you with your next trip, take a look.

While January temps should dive and the catching will slow, it shouldn't die. When I see a nice cool day and water temps still above 40, I'm heading to the river. That's why Santa brought us fleece, goretex, and hand warmers!

Stock up now on legs, eggs, buggers, sexy Walts, and pheasant tails. And I'll "catch" you a-stream in the new year.



Fishing Reports (cont.)
Send your fishing reports to [Tightlines Editor](#)

A New Years Tradition
Submitted by Pat and Tammy Hopton

For the past 7 years, we have rented one of the cabins at [Smithgall Woods State Park](#) during the New Years holiday. If you've never stayed at one of their cabins, let us tell you what a treat they are. These are NOT your typical State Park cabins (though there is nothing wrong with typical Park cabins!). These cabins are extra nice, very private, and the State Park folks go out of their way to make sure you are well taken care of.

Since it is just the two of us, we rent one of the one-bedroom cabins, with Laurel Cottage being our favorite. In addition to being fully furnished, we especially like the Jacuzzi hot tub out on the deck! Ahhh..... What a treat!

One of the things we really like about Smithgall is that those who rent a cabin have exclusive fishing privileges to Section One of Dukes Creek. This section is reserved for only those who rent cabins. It is an incredibly pretty section of creek and, as those who fish Dukes Creek know, there are some really big fish there!

We also like to hike the connector trail from the cabins up to [Dukes Creek Falls](#). In addition, there are several other nice hiking trails in Smithgall Woods State Park.

You may think the cabins are a little expensive, but for a once a year treat they are well worth it. Besides, Smithgall Woods State Park has always been a great supporter of the Rabun Chapter and we like to patronize those who support our Chapter.

We love it there and always look forward to going back. Why don't you try it out?



Calling all Trout Campers!
Applications are now being accepted for the
2020 Trout Camp!



Where: Tallulah Falls School, Clayton, Georgia

When: May 31 to June 5, 2020 (Sunday – Friday)

Who: Boys and Girls, 13-15 Years Old

Learn and Practice the Sport of Fly Fishing!

Study Sound Conservation Practices!

Enjoy a Fun and Rewarding Experience!

Camp Location:
Northeast Georgia in
the town of Tallulah Falls.
The Heart of the Blue
Ridge Mountains.



2019
Georgia Trout Camp

PARTNERS



SPONSORS



Mail your application ([CLICK HERE](#)) for Trout Camp to

Charlie Breithaupt, GA Trout Camp Coordinator
194 Kitchens Lane
Clayton, GA 30525

Deadline for applications is March 15, 2020.

For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

January Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies .</u>
Blue Wing Olive and Blue Quill	All month	Late am to Mid pm	16-18 BWO, Blue Quill, Adams Parachute 16 BWO Nymph, Pheasant Tail
Midges	All month	All day	18-22 Griffiths Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa
None at all	All month	All day	Dredging Nymphs:12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, Pheasant Tail

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Parachute Blue Wing Olive

HOOK: #14—22 Dry Fly

TAIL: Dun-Gray Hackle Feathers

BODY: Olive Dubbing

WING: Dun-Gray Hackle

PARACHUTE: Antron or Claf Body Hair

Great fly to have during the winter months. On warm evenings a hatch will come off and size does matter.



See you on The River! Terry

Rabun Chapter Caps Will Be For Sale at the Chapter Meetings and at the Rabun Rendezvous!

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

Cost is \$15 per cap.

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



Rabun Chapter Membership Update
Current membership: 182 adult members and 7 Stream Explorers.

Welcome New Members!

None this month.

Thanks for Re-Uping!

Doug Bryant, Jeff Durniak, Gordon Fowler, Scott James, Derek Porter, David Ruth, Terry Seehorn, and Sandy Strong.

Members That Need to Re-Up!

James Bruce, Mike Charnoky, Robert Clifford, Larry Ekman, Walter Godfrey, Doug Hickman, Tom Matthews, Mitchell McFarland, Brian Weeks, and Jimmy Whiten.

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 Chapter Prez [Kent Wilson](#).

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
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
Jerry McFalls	Scouts Liaison
Pat Hopton	Tight Lines Editor

Prez Notes

I sincerely hope that all of you have enjoyed a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The unseasonable weather has been excellent for some mid-winter trout fishing and I hope that many of you have seized the opportunity to take advantage of it.

As you read this edition of Tightlines, the 2020 Rabun Rendezvous will be right around the corner. I would like to remind everyone that this is our chapter's largest fundraising event of the year. We rely heavily on the monies raised from this event to enable the chapter to fulfill our mission. We are deeply appreciative of our business partners as well as all who contribute through the donation of items for the Silent Auction and/or Bucket Raffle, those who contribute monetarily as well as those who contribute by investing their time in the tedious preparation for this very important event. The success that the Rendezvous continues to enjoy each year would not be possible without the support of all of you! So, as we begin the final countdown for the Rabun Rendezvous, please remember that your support in whatever form is much needed and greatly appreciated!

A partial listing of items that will be available to bid on at the Rendezvous will be forthcoming via email blasts and Rabun Trout Unlimited Facebook posts so mark your calendars and stay tuned for further information. I hope to see you all at the Rabun Rendezvous on Saturday, January 18, 2020!

Kent Wilson