



# **TIGHT LINES**

## **March 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, March 17***

*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*

### ***Meet the Warden: Ethan Franklin***

The GA Department of Natural Resource's new Rabun County game warden is Ethan Franklin. He's got a great pedigree! A native of Habersham County, Ethan has done DNR tours as a brook trout intern for Leon Brotherton, a wildlife technician, and finally as a DNR Law Enforcement officer. And his mom, Shari, was Jeff Durniak's office manager.

Come and learn more about Ethan's hunting and fishing heritage, his commitment to conservation, and his desire to have your eyes and ears helping him to protect our natural resources.

We hope to see you there!



## Forward Casting - Important Dates for the Next Two Months

**Mar 7 (Sat) Raccoon Creek Work Day.** 8:00 am—12:00 pm. Conservation project sponsored by the [Cohutta Chapter](#).

**Mar 7 (Sat) Crawfish Creek Work Day.** 8:00 am—12:00 pm. Conservation project sponsored by the [Upper Chattahoochee Chapter](#).

**Mar 18 (Wed) Fly Fishing Film Tour.** 7:00 pm. Event held at Sweetwater Brewing in Atlanta, GA. Sponsored by the [Upper Chattahoochee Chapter](#).

**Mar 14 (Sat) GA Council TU Quarterly Meeting.** 8:00 am—11:00 pm. Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell, GA. Anyone may attend. Contact [Charlie or Kathy Briehaupt](#).

**Mar 17 (Tues) Monthly Chapter Meeting.** 6:30 pm at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church in Rabun Gap, GA. Contact [Kent Wilson](#).

**Mar 21 (Sat) Hoot on the Hooch.** Doors open at 5:00 pm. Helendorf Inn in Helen, GA. Annual fund raising event for the [GA Foothills Chapter](#). The drawing for the Dream Trip will be held.

**Mar 24 (Tues) Rabun Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** 6:30 pm at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church. Anyone may attend. Contact [Kent Wilson](#).

**Mar 28 (Sat) Rabunite 101, An Introduction to Fly Fishing.** 8:30 am—1:00 pm at Clayton Methodist Creative Learning Center, Clayton, GA. See page 6 for more information. Contact [Charlie or Kathy Briehaupt](#).

**Mar 29 (Sat) Spring Banquet.** 5:30 pm at Flinchum's Phoenix at Whitehall Forest, Athens, GA. Annual fundraising event for the [Oconee River Chapter](#).

**Apr 3-5 (Fri-Sun) Southeast Regional TU Rendezvous.** Kanuga Lake Inn in Hendersonville, NC. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

**Apr 4 (Sat) Sweep the Hooch.** Contact the [Chattahoochee RiverKeepers](#).

**Apr 4 (Sat) Rock Creek Work Day.** 8:00 am—12:00 pm. Conservation project sponsored by the [Blue Ridge Mountain Chapter](#).

**Apr 18 (Sat) Women's Fly Fishing Clinic.** 10:00 am—3:00 pm at the Delayed Harvest section of Smith Creek, Unicoi State Park. See pages 4 and 5 for more information. Contact [Michele Crawford](#) or [Tammy Hopton](#).

**Apr 18 (Sat) International Fly Fishing Film Festival.** 6:00 pm at the Walhalla Performing Arts Center, Walhalla, SC. Annual fund raising event for the [Chattooga River Chapter](#).

**No scheduled Chapter Monthly Meeting for April.**

**Apr 21 (Tues) Scouts Appreciation Dinner and Fishing Event.** Fishing begins at 4:00 pm, supper begins at 6:00 pm. Indian Lake Picnic Area at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School. Contact [Jimmy Whiten](#).

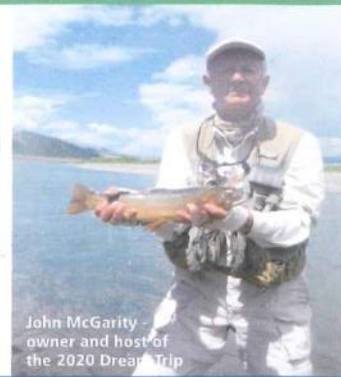
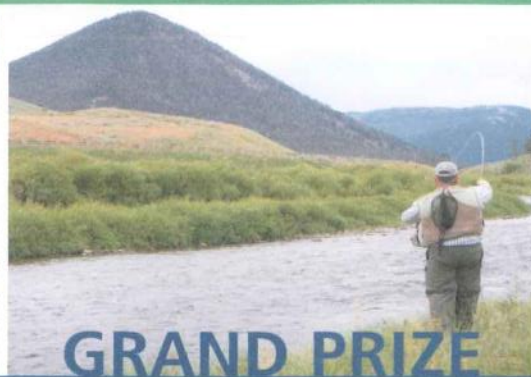
**Apr 28 (Tues) Rabun Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** 6:30 pm at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church. Anyone may attend. Contact [Kent Wilson](#).

**April 29-May 3 (Wed-Sun). Rabun Chapter Spring Campout.** [Oconee State Park](#), Mountain Rest, SC. See page 7 for more information. Contact [Terry Rivers](#).

**May 31—June 5 (Sun-Fri) Trout Camp.** Tallulah Falls School. See page 8 for more information.



# 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](http://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](http://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.

## Calling All Ladies!

The Rabun Chapter Trout Unlimited Ladies Fly-Fishing Clinic is the perfect time to act on your desire to learn how to fly fish for trout.

*\* Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.*

*\* To be held at the Delayed Harvest section of Smith Creek, Unicoi State Park.*

*\* Cost is \$30 per participant. Don't forget to buy your fishing license!*

Each lady participant will be paired with a fishing guide that will work with you throughout the day to learn the basics of fly fishing. Waders and rods will be provided.

The morning will begin with some casting demonstrations with your personal guide (if needed) then fishing until 1:00pm with your personal guide. Your guide will work hands on in the water with you. You will learn casting techniques, fly selection, reading the water, catching and releasing.

After fishing, from 1:00 until 2:30 enjoy fellowship with the other ladies and guides along with a great lunch and creekside fire.

When you sign up, we will get your boot and pant size so you will be fitted with waders and boots on Saturday morning.

This is a rain or shine event. There is no rain date should this event have to be canceled due to extremely stormy dangerous weather. If we have to cancel you will have first opportunity to sign up for our fall event.

For more info or to sign up email Michele Crawford at [mcrawfordtu@windstream.net](mailto:mcrawfordtu@windstream.net)



**"I don't know exactly what fly-fishing teaches us, but I think it's something we need to know"**

**John Gierach**



# RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

## LADIES FLY FISHING CLINIC



If you're a woman age 18 or over and have been wanting to learn how to fly fish for trout, now is the perfect opportunity!

**WHEN: SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2020 FROM 10:00 AM TO 2:30 PM**

**WHERE: SMITH CREEK AT UNICOI STATE PARK, HELEN, GA**

**COSTS: FEE IS \$30.00 PLUS YOU HAVE TO BUY YOUR FISHING  
LICENSE AND TROUT STAMP.**

**SPACE IS LIMITED TO ONLY 16 LADIES**

**SIGN UP BY EMAILING MICHELE CRAWFORD AT  
[mcrawfordtu@windstream.net](mailto:mcrawfordtu@windstream.net)**



# FLY-FISHING SEMINAR

[www.rabuntu.org](http://www.rabuntu.org)

- Ever wanted to try your hand at fly-fishing for trout but never learned the in's and out's of it?
- Ever wonder why some people seem to get so "hooked" on it?

Now's your chance! The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited is planning a half-day fly-fishing seminar for adults (male and female 16 years and older). The seminar will cover equipment, casting, knots and entomology (the bugs we imitate for fish to eat).

Instructors include Federation of Fly Fishing Certified Instructors and other experts for a hands-on learning experience that will be helpful and fun.

**WHAT:** Beginning Fly-Fishing Seminar "Rabunite 101"

**WHEN:** Saturday – March 28, 2020 8:30 am until 1:00 pm

**WHERE:** Clayton Methodist Creative Learning Center/ Gym  
205 Ministry Mountain Drive, Clayton, GA 30525  
(off old hwy 441 behind the radio station)  
<http://www.claytonmethodist.com/creative-learning-center/>

**HOW MUCH?** Cost is only \$25

**WANT TO SIGN UP??? FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!**  
The session is limited to 28 participants.

**Send the form below along with your check made payable to:**

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Charlie Breithaupt  
194 Kitchens Lane  
Clayton, GA 30525 [knc615@windstream.net](mailto:knc615@windstream.net) (706)782-6954

*You will receive notification when you have been registered.*

Please Print (NEATLY!) Yes, I want to attend the fly-fishing seminar!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Rabun Chapter Spring Campout

**When:** Wednesday April 29 through Sunday May 3

**Where:** [Oconee State Park](#), Mountain Rest, SC

**Who:** All Chapter members and guests are invited!  
Bring a friend!

**Details:** The Chapter will use Site #93 in the Wooded Loop as the “gathering spot”. Meals will be taken there along with story telling around the campfire at night.

Campers should contact the [Park](#) and make their own campsite reservations. There are a variety of sites available, including sites with full hookups.

We will eat breakfast and supper together at Site #93. Lunch is on your own. If you sign up to cook a meal then all meals are free of charge to you. If you do not cook a meal, then pay the cook \$5.00 for each meal that you eat. What a deal! The Chapter will provide stoves, paper plates, silverware, cups.

Even if you don't camp, come by to eat a meal or sit around the campfire. You may even be treated to some cowboy poetry by Pat and Charlie!

During the day you may explore the Park, hike to scenic waterfalls, photograph spring wildflowers, visit nearby Cashiers, NC, or fish the many streams in the Tri-State area. Remember to carry the appropriate State fishing license!

**For more information**, or to sign up to cook a meal, contact the Campout Host [Terry Rivers](#).



Hello all!

The weather is getting warmer and summer will be upon us in no time and we will wonder what happened to Spring. I have been talking to some of the Chapter members and it seems that everyone is chomping at the bit to get on the water. I will be posting soon about hitting the streams for a little fly fishing.

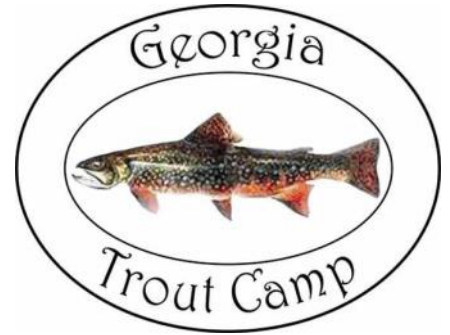
Bring it on! If you have a favorite stream that you would like to fish let me know. Bring it on and we will try to do it. I think that one trip that I would like to do is a camping trip to [Smokemont Campground](#) in the [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#). This would be in addition to our chapters Spring camping trip at Oconee State Park. Smokemont is central to a passel of great fishing destinations.

Chapter members keep your rods and reels on the ready for some fun fly fishing trips.

Tight Lines everyone.  
Mike Fuller



***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](#).**





## 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 2020 at  
the Rabun TU chapter picnic.*



**2020 Mack Martin Rod raffle tickets are now on sale!**

Contact [Pat Hopton](#), Ticket Chairperson or any member of the BOD to purchase tickets. Drawing will be held at the Chapter Family Picnic in July, 2020.

# ***Backcasting***

## ***Rabun Chapter Monthly Meeting***

### ***February 18***

A large turnout of Rabun Chapter members and guests came to hear Sarah Baker, the newly-hired GA DNR Fisheries Biologist speak at the February meeting. Sarah discussed some of the various habitat improvement/stream restoration techniques to which she has contributed. She also described her research experiences with a tailwater trout fishery. Finally, Sarah shared with us her goals and visions for her upcoming work with the GA DNR.

Her enthusiasm was refreshing and contagious. The Chapter has volunteered to help her in any way possible. We're here to support you, Sarah!



### ***Call for Nominations***

The Rabun Chapter Board of Directors respectfully submits the following slate of officers to fill upcoming vacancies on the Board. Any Chapter member may nominate any other persons to these positions. A vote for these positions will occur at the upcoming March Chapter meeting.

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>To Serve Through</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>
President	2023	Jeff Durniak
Vice President	2023	Tammy Hopton
Past President	2023	Kent Wilson
Treasurer	2021	Charlie Breithaupt
Secretary	2021	Kathy Breithaupt
Rendezvous Chair	2022	Ray King
Director	2021	Tony Allred
Director	2022	Justin English
Director	2022	Terry Rivers
Director	2023	Jimmy Whiten

## Fishing Reports

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

No fishing reports submitted for February!

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### [Rocket Roy](#)

A bench memorializing Rocket Roy has been installed at Dukes Creek. It sits straight across from the parking lot streamside on Section 1. Many thanks to Will Wagner, Park Manager at Smithgall Woods, for all his assistance. Thanks also to Baldea for the pictures, and the GA Foothills Chapter BOD for its support in this endeavor to honor Rocket.

Roy was a friend and mentor to so many, not only at North Georgia Trout Online, but all across north GA. As a conservationist and ambassador for all things fly fishing his shoes will be hard to fill.

Let's all commit to trying.



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### Where to Buy Fishing Licenses (Click the links below)

[Georgia](#)

[North Carolina](#)

[South Carolina](#)

[Tennessee](#)

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### Where to Check Water Levels (Click the link below)

[USGS Current Water Data for the Nation](#)



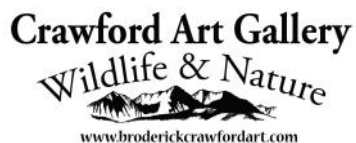
## March Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
Early Black Stonefly	All month	Late am to Mid pm	18-20 Black Elk Hair Caddis or Griffiths Gnat 16-18 Black Stone Nymph or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Small Dun Caddis (Important)	All month	Late am to Mid pm	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis 18 Hairs Ear Nymph
Cream Caddis (Important)	Late month	Mid day to Late pm	12-14 Cream Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Quill Gordon (Important)	Late month	Late am to Mid pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph
Red Quill aka Hendrickson	Mid-Late month	Mid day to Late pm	14-16 Red Quill or Hendrickson 14-16 Pheasant Tail Nymph
March Brown (Very Important)	Mid-Late month	L am to Mid pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 Dark Hares Ear or Pheasant Tail Nymph
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

## Editors Note

As you can see from the Hatch Chart above, this is the time of year the important hatches start showing up! Waa Hoo!! NOW is the time to prepare. Get your gear together, your fly boxes stocked, and start watching the USGS water gauge at [Burrells Ford](#). When you see the water temperature at 50° F or above and the water level at 200 CFS or below, **DROP EVERYTHING** and go fishing! This begins the time of year we have been waiting all winter for... dry fly season! I'll be there—hope to see you on “The River”!

**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.*

## **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.



## **Fly of the Month**

By Terry Rivers

### **Parachute March Brown**

**HOOK:** #12—16 Dry Fly  
**TAIL:** Brown Hackle Fibers  
**BODY:** Brown Goose Biots  
**THORAX:** Brown Rabbit Dubbing  
**PARACHUTE:** White Antron or Calf Tail  
**HACKLE:** Brown



Well, it seems like Spring is approaching us fast. Have some of these in your box and watch for these flies to hatch during mid-day.

***See you on The River! Terry***

**Rabun Chapter Membership Update**  
Current membership: 185 adult members and 6 Stream Explorers.

***Welcome New Members!***

No new members this month.

***Thanks for Re-Uping!***

Brooks and Amanda Adams, Charlie Breithaupt, James Bruce, Kyle Burrell, Claudia English, Justin English, Gordon Fowler, Jerry McFalls, Frank Patton, Ted Poulin, Wayne Prosser, Keith Silvers, Sandy Strong, and Hugh Thompson.

***Members That Need to Re-Up!***

George and Martha Christian, Scott Edwards, Scott Edwards, Monty English, Jeff Houston-Phil Upchurch, Michael Williams.

**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**

<a href="#">Kent Wilson</a>	Chapter President
<a href="#">Jeff Durniak</a>	Chapter Vice President
<a href="#">Charlie Breithaupt</a>	Treasurer
<a href="#">Kathy Breithaupt</a>	Secretary
<a href="#">Steve Perry</a>	Past President
<a href="#">Ray King</a>	Rendezvous Chair
<a href="#">Frank Patton</a>	Director thru 2019
<a href="#">David Ruth</a>	Director thru 2019
<a href="#">Tony Allred</a>	Director thru 2020
<a href="#">Justin English</a>	Director thru 2021
<a href="#">Terry Rivers</a>	Director thru 2021
<a href="#">Tammy Hopton</a>	Director thru 2022
<a href="#">Jimmy Whiten</a>	Director thru 2022

**Non-Voting Leaders**

<a href="#">Michele Crawford</a>	Women's Outreach, Memorials
<a href="#">Jerry McFalls</a>	Scouts Liaison
<a href="#">Pat Hopton</a>	Tight Lines Editor



## **Prez Notes**

I'm sitting here looking out the window at the snow on the ground from our most recent round of winter weather as I prepare my final President's Letter. A new chapter President and Vice-President will begin their term in April. The Board of Directors has recommended Jeff Durniak as President and Tammy Hopton as Vice-President. The new officers will be voted on at the March chapter meeting on March 17, 2020. Nominations will be opened to the floor prior to the vote. An exciting time is ahead for our chapter and we look forward welcoming the new leadership on board.

We have experienced a very unusual winter thus far. While the temperatures have been milder than normal, we have seen inches upon inches of rain interrupted only by a couple of snow showers. As a result of all the rain, it has been great fly- tying weather, but not ideal for fishing except for those who have either journeyed to their favorite small streams or been fortunate to catch the larger rivers during a wadable period. Regardless of the weather, the end of March is in sight and what was for many years the traditional start of the trout fishing season is right around the corner. If you haven't already done so, it is time to start prepping your fishing gear.

Mark your calendars for the annual Scout Cookout which will be held on April 21st at Indian Lake on the campus of Rabun Gap Nacoochee School. The scouts in attendance will not only enjoy grilled hotdogs and hamburgers, but also an opportunity to hone their angling skills while working up and appetite. We always have a great time with our local scouts who bring high energy, big appetites and lots of enthusiasm with them.

We have an exciting program in store for the March chapter meeting on Tuesday, March 17th as we hear from our new DNR Game Warden. Please plan to join us for this informative meeting beginning at 6:30 P.M. Additional information regarding the above events as well as other upcoming activities can be found in this newsletter. I hope to see you there.

*Kent Wilson*