



# TIGHT LINES

## May 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!



***All Chapter activities during the month of May have been CANCELLED due to the Covid19 pandemic.***

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

*All Chapter activities during the month of May have been **CANCELLED** due to the Covid19 pandemic.*

**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](#). **CANCELLED**

**May 14 (Thur) GA Delayed Harvest Season ends.**

**May 21 (Thur) Burrell's Ford Cookout and Fishing.** Hot dog supper at 6:00 pm at the parking area on the GA side of the bridge. Fishing until "dark-thirty" afterwards. Contact [Charlie Breithaupt](#). **CANCELLED**

**May 28 (Tues) Rabun Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** 6:30 pm. To be held using ZOOM video-conferencing. Anyone may attend. Contact [Jeff Durniak](#).

**May 31—June 5 (Sun-Fri) Trout Camp.** Tallulah Falls School. **CANCELLED**

**June 8 (Sat). Tallulah River Kid's Fishing Event.** 8:00 am at Tallulah River Campground. **POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 26**

**June 16 (Tues) Rabun Chapter Monthly Meeting.** Fellowship begins at 6:30 pm, meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church, Dillard, GA. Contact [Jeff Durniak](#).

**June 20 (Sat) GA Council TU Quarterly Meeting.** To be held from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Faith Presbyterian Church in Mineral Bluff, GA. Anyone may attend. Contact [Kathy Breithaupt](#).

**June 23 (Tue) Rabun Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** 6:30 pm at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church. Anyone can attend. Contact [Jeff Durniak](#).

**July 7 (Tues) Annual Chattoga River Sampling—Spoonauger.** Meet at Burrells Ford Bridge at 8:00 am. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

**July 14 (Tues) Annual Chattoga River Sampling—Ellicott Rock.** Meet at Burrells Ford Bridge at 8:00 am. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

**July 16 (Thur) Rabun Chapter Annual Family Picnic.** 6:30 pm at Kellys Water Fall Park in Dillard, GA. Contact [Jeff Durniak](#).

## 2020 Mack Martin Rod Raffle

The previously-scheduled raffle drawing for a custom built rod by Mack Martin has been **CANCELLED**. It will be rescheduled for next year.

Thank you again, Mack, for your generous offer of the rod!

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## 2020 Dream Trip Raffle

The previously-scheduled raffle drawing for the 2020 Dream Trip has been **POSTPONED**. It will now be held Saturday, May 16. Winners will be contacted and posted on the [GA TU Council web site](#).

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## Free Trout Unlimited Memberships for Essential Workers

Trout Unlimited is running a free membership campaign directed at essential workers. They are extending the offer to all the Moms out there who love to fish, care about conservation, and want to join the TU family.

The offer is good through Monday, May 11, so make good on it soon!

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

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## Update on Lake Burton Fish Hatchery Renovations

*From Prez Jeff Durniak:* I took a ride last weekend to get some fresh air and rode by Burton Hatchery. Looks like the renovation is in full swing.



## A New Submission for “[How to Speak Rabunite](#)”

Submitted by “Sautee”

Term: Speckulator

Definition: A wandering Flatlander on north Georgia bluelines in search of the elusive mountain jewel, our one-and-only native salmonid. When they strike out and ask a Rabunite where these secretive fish reside, our reply is automatic: IDBIS. If they join our clan and survive orientation, they may eventually be blindfolded, sworn to secrecy by a trusted Rabunite, and taken to Creek X. Their memory will last a lifetime.

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### Update on the Kiosks at Burrells Ford

The Rabun Chapter recently donated funds to help pay for a new kiosk to be located at the Burrells Ford Bridge, near the trailhead to Ellicotts Rock. The kiosk will encourage visitors to practice “Leave No Trace” outdoor recreation.



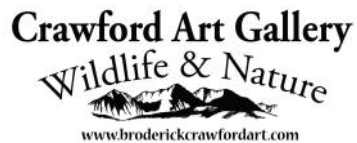
## MAY Hatch Chart

<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.**

## 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

### 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*

## Fishing Reports

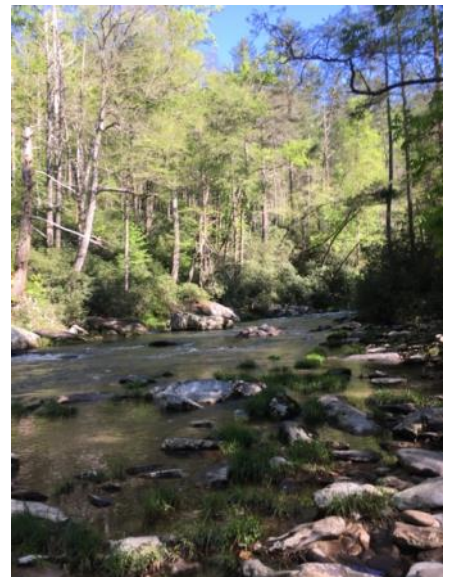
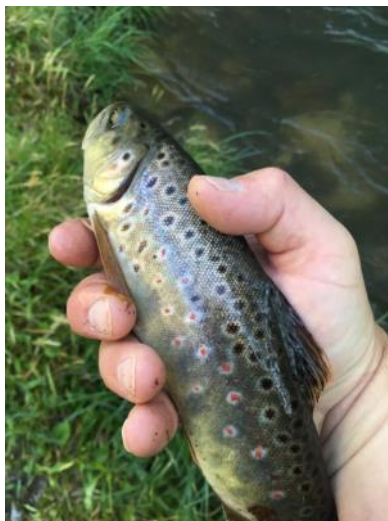
### Mike Addington, May 4

Arrived at Burrells Ford at daybreak. Never seen so many people there—not a lot fishing but it was unreal. Walked above East Fork to the first island and began fishing. Water was high and stained. No bugs. Used a pink squirmy wormy and it had to be on bottom. Caught half a dozen nice browns up until 12” then it slowed.

I worked my way up past Ellicotts Rock into North Carolina and the fish were spread out. People were everywhere! But most were not fishing. I didn’t catch any small fish, all good ‘uns. Not that I’m complaining.

In the afternoon fished a caddis on top with no success as no bugs were really coming off. I left about 4 as I was tired. I had planned to stay until dark. I am curious if a hatch came off late as it was cold that morning but got hot late in day.

All in all a good day.



## **Fishing Reports, cont.**

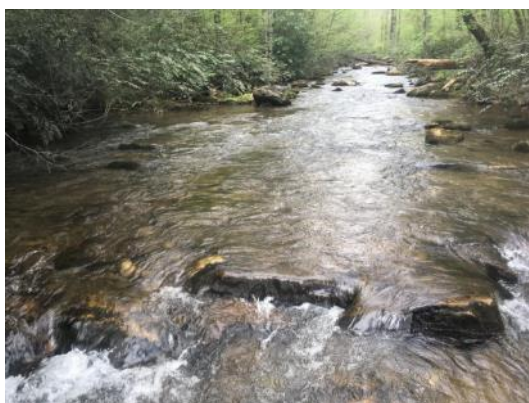
### **Tammy Hopton, May 5**

Pat and I made a trip to the Upper Chattooga River. The weather was perfect, but the water was little high making for some tough wading in spots. We wet-waded. Saw some bugs hatching and very few rises. Best action was from 6:00-7:00 pm, and once the sun got off the water it turned cool and the bugs went away. Caught most fish on a #14 Parachute Light Cahill. Saw lots of trilliums and other wildflowers.



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### **Jeff Durniak, April 26**



## Fishing Reports, cont.

### Brian Weeks, May 7

Practiced social distancing by visiting a small wild stream in the middle of the North Georgia woods. The air temp topped out in the low to mid 70s with the water temp at 52F.

Started out with a #16 tan elk hair caddis. After less than hoped for action, switched over to a dry/dropper comprised of a yellow stimulator and a classic hare's ear. Things picked up from there with an even split between the two. Bounced more than I care to admit, due to either too stiff a rod or not holding my mouth right.

All in all, a very peaceful day. Thank God for pretty little trout.



**Rabun Chapter Membership Update**  
Current membership: 190 adult members and 6 Stream Explorers.

***Welcome New Members!***  
Stephen Griner, from Lakemont, GA.

***Thanks for Re-Uping!***  
Jim Blalock, Jimmy Cochran, Jesse Durham, Sandy Morgan-Brundage, Maria Rodeghiero, Monte Seehorn, Bradley Tucker, and Michael Williams.

***Members That Need to Re-Up!***  
Tony Allred and Jenna Ostas.

The Rabun Chapter expresses our condolences to the Reeves family on the death of Carol Reeves, wife of Chapter member Lewis Reeves, Jr.

**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 [Jeff Durniak](#).

*We look forward to having you in our Chapter!*

**Rabun Chapter Leadership Contacts**

**Voting Leaders**

<a href="#">Jeff Durniak</a>	Chapter President
<a href="#">Tammy Hopton</a>	Chapter Vice President
<a href="#">Charlie Breithaupt</a>	Treasurer
<a href="#">Kathy Breithaupt</a>	Secretary
<a href="#">Kent Wilson</a>	Past President
<a href="#">Ray King</a>	Rendezvous Chair
<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="#">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

To think about Spring 2020 in our favorite fishing terms, this may be a time of “slow emergence.” Usually by now, I’m almost slap-out of cahills and caddis, and I’m urgently tying weekday replacements for another weekend jaunt to my favorite river (where? well, IDBIS!). This year, however, our spring has felt like an extended winter. We’ve been stuck in our homes a long time, ail from severe cabin fever and, like our favorite stream bugs, are now ready to emerge in full force.

That’s how we feel. But how should we think? Like a big ole Quill Gordon nymph stuck in forty-degree water, it may be more prudent and healthy for Rabun TU to have a slow emergence, too. Although “the curve” is flattening, that wrong bug is still out there, so Rabun TU plans to re-emerge slowly and deliberately. We’ll have more great gatherings and embellished fish stories in the long run if we proceed slowly now, with caution. That’s also the route set for all chapters by TU National in Chris Wood’s Zoom video conference last week. TU’s gonna pay close attention to guidance by health care professionals and our state and federal resource agency partners, and err on the side of caution with National and chapter activities.

So please be patient with your BOD and me. You’ll likely see a few more postponements or cancellations of Rabunite activities, at least in the near future. You’ll see us doing a bit more “distant” or “remote” business now to plan our summer and fall calendar. “Zoom” may soon be added to our Rabunite vocabulary! We thank you in advance for your patience and support as we adapt Rabun TU to our altered environment.

While our “extended winter” has been long, it did have its upside. Our sheltering has led to prettier flowers around the house, honey-do lists knocked out, larger victory gardens, and overflowing fly boxes. We’ve even slowed down and enjoyed life’s true blessings a bit more: family time, home-cooked meals, songbirds at dawn, and beautiful sunsets over our beloved mountains.

And the best part of winter is its transition to spring! May now knocks and “may” even allow us a return to our favorite waters. Our river reunion may not be in a gang, but individually or with one good buddy, at least a rod’s length away, who drove separately to your secret rendezvous site.

As we learn more from our health care experts, resource agency partners, and TU National, we’ll start refilling the Rabunite calendar with meetings and events. We’ll do it with your well being first and foremost, and we’ll outlast this long winter of 2020.

As the birds sing outside my window this morning, I believe I’ll tie a few more parachute Adams and put a fresh leader on my reel. I’m sensing that my own spring is finally around the corner and I’m ready to emerge, slowly and smartly. How about y’all? Be safe and optimistic, dear friends. May spring’s blessings surround you and your families.

***Jeff Durniak***