



TIGHT LINES

January 2021 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!



January, 2021 Chapter Meeting

Rabun TU's January 19 zoom program will be "Taking Better Fishing Fotos" by longtime chapter friend and commercial photographer David Cannon.

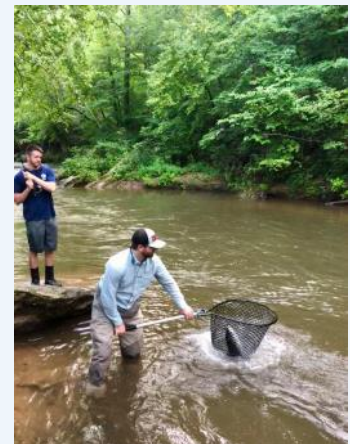
<http://www.davidcannonphotography.com/>

David's pics and stories, from the Amazon to Alaska, are now seen in national magazines and catalogs from Cabelas to Gray's Sporting Journal. His latest work is a Georgia photo spread in the Nov/Dec 2020 edition of American Fly Fishing Magazine. David's second edition of Fly Fishing Georgia is expected to hit bookstore shelves next year. David gave us this program a decade ago and I've invited him back for a "new and improved" session on Fish Pics 101. If you want to take great fish pics, don't miss it!

The program will start at 7pm, but we'll open up the Zoom room at 645 so folks can get settled in.

Zoom meeting ID and password here:

Meeting ID: 880 0710 1363
Passcode: 638273



Correspondence to the Rabun Chapter

Hey Jeff,

I wanted to let you know that all the new signage should be on the new kiosk at Burrell's Ford. They look good, I really appreciate your folk's help with this much needed upgrade. I included a photo of the Chatt-O information.

Robbie Sitzlar
District Ranger, Andrew Pickens RD



Dear Jeff & Rabun Old Members
I can't thank you enough for your continuing support of Casting for Recovery's Georgia Program. Especially this year, and into the next, funds are needed to support our free retreat for women with a diagnosis of breast cancer. We are hopeful and planning for one retreat in 2021 - late fall. The entire CFR organization will be easing back into retreats after cancelling all retreats and events in 2020. We think by late fall we'll all have a better

Casting for Recovery Georgia

idea of how this pandemic is moving and can plan our retreats accordingly. Whether we host a smaller retreat with reduced staff, or whether we have River Helper volunteers is all on a wait and see -

Rabun Old has always been a supporter of CFR GA and we truly appreciate your generosity this year.

We wish you and all your families a Happy & Healthy 2021.

Dee Dee Booth **To Fish is To Hope** Lynn Thomas
Program Coordinator



Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

www.rabuntu.org

Rabun TU
PO Box 371
Clayton, GA 30525

December 15, 2020

Mr. Ed Hunter, Forest Supervisor
And Staffers Mr. Mike Brod, Mr. Chad Bell,
And Mr. Ryan Foote
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests (CONF)
1755 Cleveland Highway
Gainesville, GA 30501

Via Email

Dear Ed, Mike, Chad, and Ryan:

On behalf of our 185 members, the Excom and Directors of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited (RTU) would like to thank you for your commitment to the longstanding helicopter trout stocking program on the Chattooga River. First, we appreciated Chad's diligence with identifying a potential \$10,000 grant to help fund this program in future years. He then helped the Georgia Trout Unlimited (GATU) State Council through the lengthy and complicated federal grants process to secure these funds. As assistants of and cheerleaders for Chairwoman Kathy Breithaupt and her GATU council, RTU was elated about the grant.

Then, when your FY20 deadlines prevented the use of these grant funds, your CONF quartet fully funded and implemented the fall 2020 helicopter stocking program for Georgia's share of the Chattooga backcountry trout. When combined with the other half of the stocking by South Carolina DNR and Francis Marion/Sumter NF, the river achieved 100% of its annual backcountry stocking goal! In this truly challenging year of tight budgets, record western fires, and Covid, the accomplishment of this fisheries program goal is commendable. So we are commending you!

Thank you for preserving the Chattooga helicopter stocking program and maintaining the popular recreational fishery over fifteen miles of river backcountry. We look forward to partnering with your agency in maintaining this important component of the CONF fish and wildlife management program for years to come. We are 100% behind you on topics of mutual interest, so please do not hesitate to contact us on coldwater resource conservation and management across our national forest. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, valued federal partners!

Sincerely,

Jeff Durniak, President
Kent Wilson
Ray King
Justin English

Tammy Hopton, Vice President
Charlie Breithaupt
Tony Allred
Jimmy Whiten

Cc: GATU Chair Kathy Breithaupt
USFS Regional Forester Ken Arney

Attention All Rabunites! From the Rabun Chapter Conservation Team:

We want to continue our efforts to conserve trout waters in Rabun County. Our team welcomes your help. While you are out fishing, if you see areas that could be improved or repaired, such as erosion problems, stream siltation, streamside or in-stream trash, feel free to take pictures, identify the issue and location, and send the information to Justin and me. Our team will look into the issue, discuss with BOD, and see if it's something we can remedy, or encourage our managing agencies to do so. Working together, we can all conserve the great water resources that make us proud to live, work, and play here!

Team Leader- Steve Perry: email- flygide@gmail.com.
Cell- [828-371-1633](tel:828-371-1633)

Assistant Team Leader- Justin English: email- trouter10@hotmail.com
Cell- [706-490-5032](tel:706-490-5032)

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

Bead Head Copper John

HOOK: # 14/16 NYMPH

TAIL: BROWN GOOSE BIOTS

BODY: COPPER WIRE

THORAX: PEACOCK HERL

WINGS: PHEASANT TAIL FIBERS

WING CASE: HOLOGRAPHIC TINSEL

HEAD: BRASS BEAD.



GREAT FLY DURING WINTER MONTHS. FISH IT DEEP.

See you on The River! Terry

2021 Dream Trip Tickets Now On Sale!

The GA TU Council has voted to conduct the 2021 Dream Trip raffle online. TU National has partnered with Eventgroove to offer us this service. The link below will take you to the site where you can purchase Dream Trip tickets.

<https://go.tulocalevents.org/georgia-trout-unlimited-dream-trip-2021>

Tickets are \$10.00 each. Only 2,000 tickets will be sold. There will be a small online fee added to each purchase. The winners will be announced at the Council meeting on Saturday, March 20, 2021.

Thanks again to Laine and John McGarity for their generosity in providing us with this opportunity!!!!

Kathy Breithaupt, Ph.D.
GA TU Council Chairman

DREAM TRIP - FLY FISHING FOR TWO!





GRAND PRIZE

John McGarity
owner and host of
the 2021 Dream Trip

John McGarity, owner and host of the 2021 Dream Trip

"The 2021 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."

John McGarity, owner and host of the 2021 Dream Trip

- **5 days hosted fishing / 6 nights lodging in Idaho July 25-30, 2021**
- **\$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 - Finesse fly rod - 4 wt. 8'9", 4 piece fly rod (perfect trout rod). Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School.
 - Peak rotary fly-tying vise. 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.
 - AFS gift certificate for a fly fishing or fly-casting class during 2021. 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 2021 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. 2021.
 - 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
 - Gift card in the amount of \$500 for goods and services with Cohutta Fishing Company of Blue Ridge Georgia. Donated by the Cohutta Chapter.
 - Two draws of Six Dozen Trout Flies each. Donated by the 12 TU chapters in Georgia.



For complete rules and details visit www.georgiatu.org



GEORGIA COUNCIL TROUT CAMP 2021

JUNE 5TH & 6TH

8:00 AM to 5:30 PM

SPONSORS PARTNERS



PROGRAM:

- Fly fishing basics
- Equipment
- Lines/leaders
- Knots
- Fly casting
- Conservation program (DNR)
- Fly tying
- Trout Unlimited's Mission
- Entomology
- Safety on the water
- Fishing at Nacoochee Bend

DETAILS:

Lunches, snacks & fly-fishing equipment provided by Georgia Council
Fishing at Nacoochee Bend will follow lunch on Sunday (June 6)
Transportation & overnight accommodations provided by parents or guardian

LOCATIONS:

Atlanta Fly Fishing School
5060 Pittman Rd, Cumming, GA 30040
&
Nacoochee Bend – Unicoi Outfitters
7280 S Main St, Helen, GA 30545



COST: \$200 per camper

REGISTRATION: www.georgiatu.org



Fishing Reports

Happy new year! It started out wet, so that was a good time for fly-tying and online shopping. Trout streams were warmer than normal, but running very high from 2.5 inches of rain. They were also crowded with holiday anglers, so individual catch totals were smaller due to competition for good spots and the cold water between the two holidays.

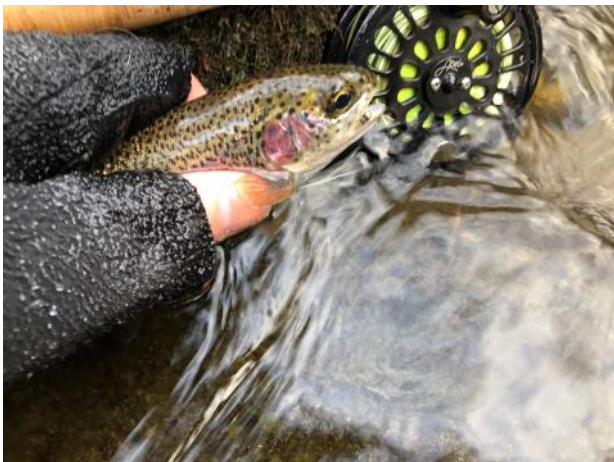
Fishing conditions should improve as flows subside and holiday crowds disperse. The key will be water temperatures. Anything over 45 and you'll have decent chance. Under that and your winter pickings will be slim.

Best winter trout bugs should continue to be egg patterns, rubberleg stones, pheasant tail nymphs and soft hackle wets, and small Euronymphs (perdigons were hot).

Hint: match flies to flows! Use bigger and brighter bugs when rivers are running fast and fish must make quick lunch decisions. Scale down to smaller, natural colored flies as flows subside and your quarry can study your offerings. Hit that 11AM-4PM window of sunshine and daily water temp peaks for your highest fondling probability.

For a good "strike indicator," check out my column in the January issue of The Angler Magazine. You might like the title, "The Rabunite Thermometer!"

[Atlanta Fishing E-Magazine | The Angler Magazine Atlanta Edition](#)



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.

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

[Jeff Durniak](#)
[Tammy Hopton](#)
[Charlie Breithaupt](#)
[Kathy Breithaupt](#)
[Kent Wilson](#)
[Ray King](#)
[Tony Allred](#)
[Justin English](#)
[Terry Rivers](#)
[Jimmy Whiten](#)

Chapter President
 Chapter Vice President
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Past President
 Rendezvous Chair
 Director thru 2020
 Director thru 2021
 Director thru 2021
 Director thru 2022

Non-Voting Leaders

[Michele Crawford](#) Women's Outreach, Memorials
[Jerry McFalls](#) Scouts Liaison
[Pat Hopton](#) Tight Lines Editor
[Steve Perry](#) Conservation Chairperson

Prez Notes

“Happy New Fishing Season!!!” That’s how my Rabunite new year always started, with a note, email, or call from our dearly departed legend and clan originator, Doug Adams. He sure had his priorities straight. Anyone who ended his emails and newsletters with the saying, “fishing is life; the rest is just details” is a fishing Hall-of-Famer in my book. So I will wish those same words of joy upon y’all. And with some vaccine doses starting to pop up here and there, we may indeed have a much better fishing season than the last one. I’ve promised myself a double-scoop of summer Yellowstone adventures if the covid coast clears. How about y’all?

In the meantime, welcome to “winter hibernation.” Usually around this time, all Rabunites are scurrying around like December elves behind schedule and with reindeer antlers aimed at their derrieres, as we prepared for our big shindig, our annual “Loot the Flatlanders,” better known as the Rabun Rendezvous. But we’ll continue to be distant and safe, so no mega-cholesterol banquet this time. Bummer, but we’re all safer and svelter. No need for new blue jeans...

We still hope to pull off an online auction of big stuff to pad our bank account. Hopefully we’ll have an update from Ray King soon. In the meantime, start schmoozing your big donors, once they’ve licked their wounds from the holidays and restocked their own shelves and store accounts. Again, we don’t need the cash to operate our chapter this year, thanks to Charlie’s careful accounting, but we do have a nice chance to put some extra cash in our Rabunite stash for our good deeds to come after vaccines. So enjoy your time off and the ten fewer pounds you don’t have to shed in February after dodging the Dillard House desserts. And make a list of donors to hit.

Our main events will continue to be the monthly Zoom programs. We’ve had some good ones and should have more to come. In January it’s David Cannon and he’ll hopefully help us to take better pics of nice fish and streams, and fewer pics of our thumbs and toes. For February I have a really good prospect lined up. I sent a follow-up email to him just before the holidays and await confirmation before announcing that program. More info to come. In March we’ll have our adopted sister, DNR biologist Sarah Baker, and TU Southeastern Rep Jeff Wright explain this new program of using us to confirm wild trout distributions. Lean-staffed agencies can’t be everywhere, and there’s a lot of little streams that haven’t been sampled in years. This is a pilot project to use volunteer angler info to confirm the trout species and distributions in north GA streams. If that duo can “sell” us, they just might get a nice bunch of Rabunite vols to give it a try when it’s warmer and safer to fish. When’s the last time you were told to “go fishing” as an official work project? Tie more flies and stay tuned!

Cont. next page

Prez Notes, cont.

We'll see how this Covid stuff plays out before planning further. We just don't know yet if spring/summer meetings or campouts will be safe. And we always have Zoom to fall back on while we wait patiently. Again, I welcome your ideas for Zoom programs and speakers.

Lastly, rejoice, for we *ain't in Alaska!* That means we can still take a hike or wet a line on our mild winter days. When you see those air temps hitting 50 degrees or better, consider grabbing a hiking staff or fishing pole and cleansing your mind. I've just tried to make my trips fairly local (GA only) and I go slow: driving, hiking, and wading. Safety first isn't simply a saying. It is a necessity right now to honor our healthcare workers and to keep us out of clinics. But before your isolation leans you toward a swan dive into Tallulah Gorge, remember the beauty that surrounds us and the moderate temperatures that often visit our winter weeks. Grab some fresh air and maybe a fresh fish or two, and you'll be ready to head back to your den with a smile for another long nap.

How about some virtual high-fives and back-slaps? Why? We've made it. We got thru the Year To Forget. Now we can sneak a peek at the Year That's Here and smile with hope and joy. And maybe even honor Doug, Tom, and Bill with a healthy holler on our trek back to the truck: "Waaaahhh- HOOO!!!" Rabunites, may we all find some wahoos in the weeks and months ahead! Happy new fishing season. I hope to see your Zoom mug on the 19th.

Jeff