



TIGHT LINES

February 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!



February, 2021 Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, Feb 16 at 7:00 pm

Meeting by Zoom: "Hope Springs Eternal" by Steve Hudson

For the Rabun TU's February 16 zoom program flyfishing author and instructor Steve Hudson reunites (virtually) with his Rabunite buddies at 7:00 pm for "Hope Springs Eternal." Zoom in as Steve prepares us for the spring fishing season. He'll share some tips and techniques to make us more effective during our own hydrotherapy sessions.

Tying fans may also like to zoom into Steve's popular Saturday morning tying lessons. They've kept a lot of fisherfolks sane and entertained through their extended season of sheltering. Learn more and sign up here: <https://www.flykits.net/>

The program will start at 7:00 pm, but we'll open up the Zoom room at 6:45 so folks can get settled in.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81512029053?pwd=QIEycW9xbStJSUI2NDJ5bTczV0tGQT09>

Meeting ID: 815 1202 9053

Passcode: 564121

Let's have a big turnout! See you then!



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)

A Sneak Peek into the March Rabun Chapter Meeting

Topic: New Ways to Make A Difference, Emerging TU Tools to Help Conserve, Protect and Restore Trout in Georgia

Presenters: Jeff Wright, TU Southeast Coordinator and Sarah Baker, GA DNR Trout Biologist

The last year has been difficult for TU members throughout the country. With many traditional activities still on hold, people are looking for new ways to get on the water and do something to support their favorite rivers and streams. TU's Southeast Coordinator, Jeff Wright, and GADNR's Sarah Baker will join us to discuss how just about anyone can use TU's Community Science program to do just that. Our emerging app-based surveys, including Sedimentation Survey, the RIVERS app and a pilot program in Georgia called TroutFinder, give anyone with a smartphone the power to become a data collector and provide input into future conservation projects. Whether you just want to know how to report river issues when you see them or you are interested in a more in-depth, hands-on way to help, this talk will provide new opportunities for every volunteer to make a difference.

BIO: Jeff Wright is TU's Southeast Coordinator. In this role, he focuses on project management, implementation and engaging volunteers in key focal areas in the Southeast. He also assists grassroots members with various issues. Jeff's passion for conservation and the outdoors stems from a childhood hunting, fishing, and generally running around exploring wild places of Missouri. He continued to develop an outdoor ethic through college, earning both a bachelor's and master's in biology, and has worked or volunteered in various conservation roles. Jeff combines this education with over a decade of experience working and volunteering in education, leadership development, and nonprofit management to support TU in the Southeast.

BIO: Sarah Baker is GA DNR's Trout Biologist. She developed a passion for trout while conducting research as an undergraduate at The College of Idaho. She has been tromping through streams with electricity for the past 8 years in search of answers related to salmonid population dynamics, habitat utilization, riparian restoration, and nonnative species interaction. She has fallen in love with Georgia's mountain streams (rhododendron and all) and flings flies into them every Saturday that she can.

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.

<u>Position</u>	<u>To Serve Through</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	2023	Jeff Durniak
Vice President	2023	Tammy Hopton
Past President	2023	Kent Wilson
Treasurer	2024	Wayne Prosser
Secretary	2024	Ben Deal
Rendezvous Chair	2022	Ray King
Director	2022	Justin English
Director	2022	Terry Rivers
Director	2023	Jimmy Whiten
Director	2024	Trey McFalls

Recap of January Meeting Presentation

If you missed the January Chapter meeting, you missed a good one! David Cannon, a long-time Rabunite, presented tips on improving outdoor photography skills. David's presentation was incredible, with pictures he had taken in the mountains of North Georgia to those taken in the Amazon rain forest of South America!

Thank you, David, for a great program! If you missed here, here are some links to the presentation and his business contact info:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1jO_Ev4Ra7MZfBO6fSNIM3RX2miyXbFkLwFK6bdgRkPE/edit?usp=sharing

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hk96fx6ehbrzigg/2021-01%20BETTER%20FISHING%20PHOTOS%20Presentation.pdf?dl=0> (this one has a PDF version and a PowerPoint file of the presentation, too)

DAVID CANNON
Commercial + Editorial Photographer
davidcannonphotography.com
770-656-7230

February Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
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	Late month	Late am to Mid pm	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis 18 Hairs Ear Nymph
Quill Gordon	Late month	Late am to Mid pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph
Blue Wing Olive 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

“They say you forget your troubles on a trout stream, but that’s not quite it. What happens is that you begin to see where your troubles fit into the grand scheme of things , and suddenly they’re just not such a big deal anymore.” *John Gierach*

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

WD 40

HOOK: #14—20 Scud

TAIL: Wood Duck Fibers

BODY: Grey Thread

THORAX: Grey Dubbing

WING CASE: Wood Duck Flanks

HEAD: Grey Thread or Silver Tungsten Bead



Great fly to use anytime during the winter months as a dropper.

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

"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."

(Jimmy Harris, Owner, Unicoi Outfitters)

- **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

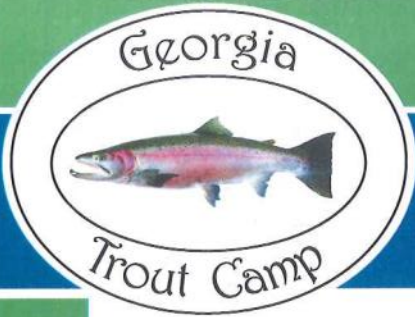
Proceeds Benefit TU Cold Water Conservation and Trout Camp

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.
 - AFFS 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.



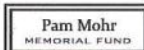
For complete rules and details visit www.georgiatu.org



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

Tips from “The Dredger”, aka Jeff Durniak, February 2021.

A few tips: First, be warm if you wanna enjoy the winter game. Get you a pair of felt sole, boot foot waders that are one shoe size larger than your spring wading shoes so you can fit two pair of wool socks and maybe a disposable toe warmer between them. If you wanna go cheap, try the Cabelas Three Forks model for \$85. I used them during my DNR days and they're good for a year or two, maybe longer if you only use them in winter and store them well. If you want better stuff, check out Orvis.

Second, be flexible. Jimmy was and I was not on 2/4. My deep dredging of pools and runs produced only six fish, while Jimmy loaded up in the riffles.

Third, check out the guide intel in the following Unicoi Outfitters Report because their tips are just as good on public water as private.

Last, these UO fishing reports are coming soon to a resurrected blog on the fly shop's website. That should help all of you non-Facebookers to dial in to my Friday fibs. Enjoy and, as Kelly always said, “ you don't have to believe it iffin' you don't want to.”

Unicoi Outfitters Report, February 5, 2021.

We saw low, clear, and cold water last week, with the trout action slow for most traditional anglers. However, a few folks who were flexible actually had good days.

The weather forecast is up and down, with some snow even possible tomorrow night at high elevations. Again, watch the weather and road conditions, and pick a warm afternoon for your best social distancing escape to the mountains.

We have some intel about recent Delayed Harvest redosings, too.

Wes' weekly hot fly list includes split case BWO nymph, Micro Mayfly nymph, Trout Crack, Fire Eggs, and the Muddy Buddy streamer. Other folks had luck on small soft hackle Hares Ears, Peach Eggs, Mop Flies, and especially Copper Johns. Due to some late news today, I'll add Squirmy Worms and small Woolly Buggers to the list. Details are in the angler reports that follow.

Headwaters

Small streams have been slow due to the cold. You'll do more fishing than catching, and any players will likely take your deep nymph instead of your dry fly.

Delayed Harvest

Today's news is that GAWRD re-dosed several waters this week, so have your Eggs, Squirmy Worms, and Buggers ready. Also go early, late, or on a weekday to avoid the weekend crowds. If you haven't already, go to the GAWRD trout page and sign up for the agency's weekly fishing reports and trout stocking lists. You might even notice some early walleye intel!

Fishing Reports, cont.

We had a couple good Chattooga DH reports. Ron W said he had a great trip last weekend. "The Trio" hit "The River" and had another stellar day. We easily caught 50+ fish among the three of us! Kurt tore them up all day and took the numbers honors, with Moe taking the big fish honor. Eggs weighted deep were the ticket all day long. I caught a few on the "Ronco Special" which was used as anchor to get the Egg down fast.

Happy to see the Flybrary kicking on the kiosk. That makes my heart happy.

Water was cold, yeah I know I need to get a thermometer. I never let it deter me though. The colder the better! As little as I get to fish, I'll fish in any condition any chance I get."

Jimmy met two friends in the parking lot yesterday and they distanced along the Chattooga DH. His two buddies fished traditionally, dredging eggs and nymphs in deep, slow pools. They had slow catching days. In contrast, Jimmy hit the riffles and had a banner day, despite water that only warmed to 42 degrees. He said, "When I first got on the river I was doing what we usually do in mid-winter; I was dredging the bottom in deep holes. Fortunately, in the second spot I fished, my fly drifted out of the deep pool and into an adjacent shallow riffle where I hooked up with a rainbow. That dim bulb in my brain brightened slightly and I started focusing only on the shallow riffles, 2 to 3 feet deep. From then on I was consistently into fish for the next three hours. I fished a Pat's Rubberlegs with a Copper John dropper with most fish coming on the Copper John. At the end of the day, I had 16 rainbows, 3 browns, and probably another 6 long distance releases. No split shot since the water was so shallow where I was fishing."

Private Waters

UO guide Hunter gave this overview, "Private water fish seem to be predominantly looking for small natural bugs such as midges, soft hackles, and classic nymphs in the 16-20 size range depending on the fly. High water after rains has made fish willing to chase streamers and typical legs and eggs patterns while the water is up. As soon as it drops, they key in on the small stuff again. Look for the sun to break through in the afternoon and be ready to fish midges or midge emergers like rs2's and wd-40's if some midges start popping off."

UO guide Palmer checked in today: "I had a trip yesterday at the bend it's was cold and slow. But if you could get a orange pearl soft hackle on their nose they would take it every time."

That's the latest news as we welcome February and its challenging fishing conditions. Dress warmly, watch the weather, water, and road conditions, and be distant and safe. Give the fly shop a call if we can help you further. Good luck!



Fishing Reports, cont.

Tammy Hopton, January 2021. Where? She Didn't Say!

On a cold day in early January, my husband Patrick and I were invited to fish a stream on private property in North Georgia where the fish grow big and feisty. The landowners are dear family friends and had graciously allowed us to fish the stream, provided we fly fish only and practiced catch and release. What a treat!

When we got there, we found the water was gin-clear, cold, and fast. I immediately went to one of my favorite spots on the stream and got down to business. It is a long, deep run that is best fished using nymphs and streamers heavily weighted to get them down deep. I was using my 4 weight fly rod, rigged with a #12 black Wooly Booger on 3x tippet. I put 3 split shot weights on the tippet and was using a strike indicator.

I started at the bottom of the run and slowly worked my way up, getting no strikes. Bummer. So, I took a break to let the run rest a bit while I changed flies, changing the Booger to a #16 Zug Bug. I started back casting to the head of the run and letting it drift down though the sweet spot, nice and deep. I see the strike indicator pause and I set the hook! I can tell it's a big'un. It jumps! And again! I let out a big "Waahoo!" After playing the fish for a few minutes I get my net out to scoop it up and.... Dang! The line goes limp. It is gone!

Pat is behind me, grinning and shaking his head... he had seen the whole thing. What happened?? I checked my tippet and found a little curly-que at the end. My knot did not hold! How embarrassing. I can almost hear my friend Doug Adams saying "Always check your knots!"

Well, I didn't give up. I fished for a few hours in other parts of the stream, caught a few smaller fish, then came back to the same run where I had lost the big 'un earlier. Using the same set up of a Zug Bug fished deep and slow, I found redemption. I hooked, played and landed this nice big, beautiful 18" rainbow trout! He jumped several times clear out of the water, put up a grueling fight to the point my arms and hands were tired, but this time my knots held.

What fun! Thank you to my dear friends for letting us fish your private waters. Even if you don't have access to private waters, I encourage you to get out and enjoy a day of trout fishing in the beautiful North Georgia mountains.

But remember: *always check your knots!*

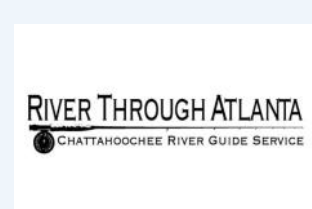


"In the best stories about fly fishing... big fish are caught or lost; people say wild and spontaneous words; events becomes memories and sometimes, in the hands of a master, bleeds into art." *Nick Lyons*

Jimmy Whiten Visited the On-Going Construction at the Lake Burton Fish Hatchery and Shared These Photos With Us



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	Chapter President
Tammy Hopton	Chapter Vice President
Charlie Breithaupt	Treasurer
Kathy Breithaupt	Secretary
Kent Wilson	Past President
Ray King	Rendezvous Chair
Tony Allred	Director thru 2020
Justin English	Director thru 2021
Terry Rivers	Director thru 2021
Jimmy Whiten	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

As I watch this Feb 6 storm front inch closer and possibly create a snowy Saturday night for Rabunite-ville, it gave me the perfect theme for this month: *inching closer*. We are inching closer to spring and all of the hope it brings: some warm days, a few early blooms, some spring bugs. And maybe a few small hints of normalcy that could appear on our horizon this year. So let's hunker down for one more winter month, prepare for spring, and run out to a socially distanced stream when those warm, sunny afternoons occasionally appear in this month's forecasts.

We can inch forward on the fishing front. See my report in the newsletter. More importantly, inch forward in your spring preparations. Have your dark bugs ready for next month's early emergencies. Work on your gray and brown dries and your big dark nymphs and soft hackles, like #12 and 14 hares ears. Check your leaders and tippets and ensure they're fresh for battle. And, as ole Rabunite Doug would harp on us, "CHECK YER KNOTS!" For more intel, don't forget your own treasure chest, hidden in the deep recesses of the Rabunite vault, err, website. Google "secrets of the Rabunites" and review "spring dries and droppers." Then get to tying or buying. When the March Quill Gordon hatch is on, you don't want to be caught a half-mile away from Terry or Pat and be short some big gray bugs!

We inch forward on chapter business. Your Prez made a rookie mistake and let Board member expirations creep up on him. So we're now in the process of firming up nominees to replace Charlie, Kathy, and Tony. Please join me in thanking these three fine hillbillies for the tenures as treasurer, secretary, and director, respectively. More importantly, let's tip our favorite fishing caps to them for literally decades of service to the chapter and even the state council. Can I get a waaaahh –HOOOO? Bear with me and the nominating committee, and watch closely for nominations and elections in the coming month or two. And if you're interested in a leadership position now or in the future please, please gimme a call (706-892-6576). The jobs aren't hard, but are critical to chapter flotation, so look for ways you can serve as a life vest for the Rabunites.

More business: it looks like we have a good candidate picked out for the June Trout Camp, thanks to Pat, Charlie, and Kathy. Camp leaders will watch the Covid climate and see if this is a go when its time draws near. To that end, thank you deeply for everyone's rallying on Dream Trip ticket sales to fund Trout Camp. Last I heard, we were 100 above our 200-ticket chapter target. Waaahhh-Hooo again! But please continue to push those sales, as the state council is at 80% of the sales goal. Let's get this over the top. We can help out our struggling sister chapters and serve Camp leaders Rodney T and Breithaupt Squared with full funding for Trout Camp. The Dream trip drawing is March 20: details and online tix sales are on Georgia TU's website.

Steve and Justin's conservation team is making real progress with their annual work plan. They are about to shop it (remotely) to the USFS and DNR professionals for input and prioritization of trout conservation needs. Whenever the Covid coast clears enough to gather, we'll have some good work projects to implement! Thanks S and J!

Prez Notes, cont.

In the meantime, we'll remain distant to keep y'all safe. I'm helping Monte Seehorn host a Zoom next week for the Chattooga Coalition's annual meeting. I'll represent Rabun Chapter interests and report back on meeting results. We had to pass on a neat spring women's fly-fishing proposal, but do hope that the DNR sponsor will ask us again during safer times, maybe this fall or in the springs ahead of us. We had a great January zoom with David Cannon's photography tips and trips. If you didn't dial in, you missed his 3 "guided trips" to speck country (including a rare GA tiger trout), the Amazon for peacock bass, and his January trip for Guatemala sailfish on the fly! And those of us who dialed in can now take better fishing pics ourselves!

We have two more Zooms lined up for February and March, and I encourage your participation. Honestly, only 20 folks dialing in for past sessions is a bit disappointing to our program organizers and speakers, so I'm challenging all of you. Give it a try and tune in from your favorite recliner for Steve in February and the DNR/TU duo in March. Again, step up a bit more as a Rabunite and show your support for chapter operations.

We need your fodder! Pat's always fishing for newsletter filler, and Tammy and I have stepped in to help Michele to keep Facebook fresh. Have you seen Tammy's HUGE Bow from IDBIS Creek? At least she told us the hot bug's name. Send your news, pics, intel, and lies to any or all of us three to keep our chapter communications going and our spirits high while the snowflakes fall.

And I'll end this note on that high spirit. We inch closer to spring and all of its sunshine, from the medical front to our angling environs on IDBIS creek. Stay safe, healthy, and hopeful. An if you tie a few too many Quill Gordons to fit in your fly box, I know a selfless chapter prez who can help you and take them off your hands. Be well, and thanks for being a Rabunite!

Prez Jeff