



TIGHT LINES

March 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!



March, 2021 Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, March 16 at 7:00 pm

Topic: Emerging TU Tools to Help Conserve, Protect and Restore Trout in Georgia

Presented by 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.

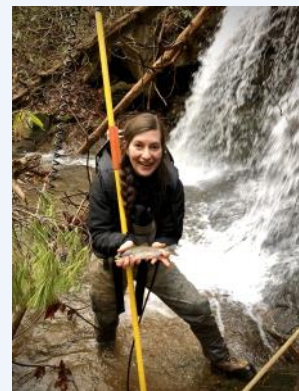
Whether you just want to know how to report river issues when you see them or you are interested in a more in-depth, hands-on way to help, this talk will provide new opportunities for every volunteer to make a difference.

Join Zoom Meeting—3/16 at 7:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480566371?pwd=YkVsbTI1VDNmZ3REOHVEZFRIekt0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 854 8056 6371

Passcode: 832471



Biographical Sketches of our Two Program Speakers

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.

We are extremely fortunate to have two great speakers for our March Chapter Zoom program! Let's show our support for these folks by attending the program!

Some Scenes from "The River"



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)

Nominations to be Voted On During March Meeting

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 |

“Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world’s great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs. I am haunted by waters.”

Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through It*

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 |

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”!



2021 Fishing Forecasts Can Give You The Edge

Planning a fishing trip? Don't forget to check out the 2021 Fishing Forecasts. [Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division \(WRD\)](https://georgiawildlife.com/fishing-forecasts) staff have updated the fishing forecasts for 32 Georgia reservoirs and 18 rivers, and they all are available in one convenient location - <https://georgiawildlife.com/fishing-forecasts>.

"It's one thing to be able to offer general fishing tips, but these fishing forecasts provide specific information about each water body. They provide best bets, technique tips and more and are even connected to an interactive map, providing an additional layer of information to this already excellent resource," says Scott Robinson, Chief of the WRD Fisheries Management Section. [Continue Reading Here....](#)

MORE INFO

[2021 Fishing Forecasts](#)
[Weekly Georgia Fishing Blog](#)

[Georgia Angler Information](#)

[Buy a Fishing License](#)

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

March Brown

HOOK: #12—16 Dry Fly

TAIL: Brown Hackle Fibers

BODY: Brown Goose Biots

THORAX: Brown Rabbit Dubbing

WING CASE: Antron or Calf Tail

HACKLE: Brown



WELL IT SEEMS LIKE SPRING IS APPROACHING US FAST. I WOULD HAVE SOME OF THESE TIED UP AND IN MY FLY BOX. LOOK FOR THESE TO HATCH AROUND MID DAY.

See you on The River! Terry

All 2021 Dream Trip Tickets Have Been Sold!

Rabun Chapter Sells the Most Tickets!!

The sweepstakes has concluded since all 2,000 tickets were sold. We planned to end on March 15th. Eventgroove (the company hosting the sweepstakes) will draw the winners on March 20th. We will announce the winners at our March 20th GA TU Council meeting via ZOOM. I am sending out the ZOOM link to the meeting this week. Jeff will get a copy and so will Tammy. The meeting will be from 9 am – 12 noon. We will announce the winners in the last ½ hour of the meeting.

Attached are more details and a list of the runner up prizes. We have had the opportunity to do this since 2005. John and Laine McGarity have been our hosts since 2010. They are members of the Oconee River Chapter of TU and do this pro bono. This truly is a TRIP to DREAM about!

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

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."

- **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 winners.

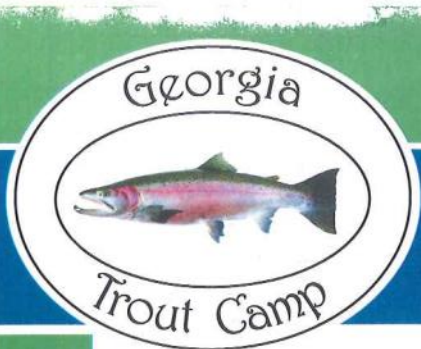
- TFO - Finesse fly rod - 4 wt. 8'9", 4 piece fly rod (perfect trout rod). Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School.
- Peak rotary fly tying vise. Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School.
- Fly box with 8+ dozen trout flies. Donated by the Atlanta Fly Fishing School.
- Fly box with 3 dozen bass poppers. 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, 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.
- AFF's 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.
- Wishing 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 Nacooche 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 dozens 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



Rabunites Making a Difference—Again!

By Charlie and Kathy Breihaupt

It was a chance for the Rabunites to help one of their own! And we weren't gonna be rollin' rocks, tying flies or pickin' up trash. Former Chapter President and current Tightlines Editor Pat Hopton was scheduled for a valve job, not on his truck, but on his heart! Knowing that his recovery would be easier and faster with a good hot meal every evening, a call went out to the Rabunites and the response was overwhelming! Pat and Tammy enjoyed home cooked or catered in meals for about two weeks! And, Pat is wading through all the get well and good wishes cards he received!

Even COVID couldn't stop the Rabunites for caring for one of their own and enjoying every minute of it! **THANKS EVERYONE FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!!!**



This was the table set up for folks to leave their meals.

Thank You! From Pat

To everyone who has called, sent emails and texts, sent Get Well Cards, sent food, and—most of all—including me in your thoughts and prayers, *Thank You!* for everything! My heart surgery went well and I continue to feel a little better each day. Hopefully soon I will be back to 100% and can meet you again “On the River”. I love you all.



Fishing Reports

From Tammy Hopton, March 2021

Well Pat was feeling a little better yesterday and we both needed to get out of the house and enjoy this pretty spring-like weather. So what did we do? Go fishing, of course! Pat wasn't up just yet for a trip into the Chattooga Backcountry (though I bet it won't be long) so instead we decided to make a quick trip to the Tallulah River.

Now I know you are thinking there's nothing there but a bunch of stocked fish and there's always too many people fishing there. If that's what you think, then maybe you should re-visit the Tallulah River. The recent heavy rains have flushed the riverbed and the water is crystal clear and beautiful. I will admit that due to the wildfires a few years back that there are a lot of dead trees along the river that takes away from the scenic beauty. Also be careful driving the road; it can get rough in spots.



But the fishing is great! We fished the stretch beginning at the ford at Charlies Creek and ended at the Tate Branch Campground. We both fished dry flies (March Browns and Parachute Adams, sizes 14-16) and got lots of strikes. I landed one small wild rainbow trout (sorry, no pictures) and lost another bigger one.

It was good to be back on the water again. It won't be long before the spring wildflowers start blooming. This is my favorite time of year!

“He told us about Christ’s disciples being fishermen, and we were left to assume... that all great fishermen on the Sea of Galilee were fly fishermen and that John, the favorite, was a dry fly fisherman.”

Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through It*

Fishing Reports, cont.

From “The Dredger”, aka Jeff Durniak, March 2021

Things are looking up – literally! On warm afternoons bottom-hugging bugs are looking up and then drifting up - to pop through the surface film. And the trout are following. Watch for water temps that rise above 50 degrees and be ready. Thanks to Doug Adams’ half century on The River, we have his monthly hatch charts. They are made of gold, so use them to plan your trip strategies. And if you wanna catch some of the drifting or flying bugs to assess size and color, remember that tip we learned long ago on the Gink & Gasoline website: a \$3 Home Depot paint strainer stretched over your dip net.



March’s color scheme is brown and gray. Before lunch try some dark nymphs (hares ear, pheasant tail) or small woolly buggers or leeches in those chilly waters. After lunch try a dry/dropper combo of a big gray or brown mayfly or caddis dry on top, with one of those dark nymphs dropped 2-4 feet below it. One or two tiny (#6) tin shot, about 8 inches above the nymph, will get it down to the trout while not sinking your fluffy dry. Then, if you’re lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time, the switch might just turn on. As abundant bugs play above them, aim for those risers with a matching dry or two. If the dry is tiny, like the #18 gray caddis I found on March 4, then leave your big dry as your first fly, your strike indicator. Then drop the tiny, matching fly on a two-foot dropper behind it. Watch your fluffy dry for a swirl behind it, set the hook, and crack a big ‘ole spring grin.



Headwaters will start to fish well. Too. Try the same techniques here, but shorten your dropper line to 12-18 inches and downsize your nymph to a #16. Your stream might be small, shallow, and snaking through a narrow rhododendron tunnel, so a “compact” rig will keep you in the water instead of the trees. If you’re real lucky and your targets have warmed their buns in the PM sun, just throw the one dry fly.



Celebrate spring with a few “trout on top.” And know that it’s only gonna get better with each passing day into May. Doug always said so. Alas, who am I to ever question the Rabunite master, so do what Doug says. And remember, “fishing is life, the rest is just details.” Tight lines, fellow fly flingers.



Zebra Mussels Found in Pet Store Products: Help Keep This Species OUT of Georgia Waters

Connect with us

Questions? Give us a call at 1-800-366-2661

Visit us at georgiawildlife.com

Headquarters address:

2067 U.S. Highway 278 SE
Social Circle, GA 30025

The [Georgia Department of Natural Resources'](http://georgiawildlife.com)

[Wildlife Resources Division \(WRD\)](http://georgiawildlife.com), along with wildlife agencies across the U.S., is urging both pet and aquarium stores and aquarium owners to remove and safely dispose of any moss ball plant designed for aquariums after invasive zebra mussels were discovered inside the product.

"Zebra mussels pose a significant risk to our state, so we urge anyone that may have purchased this type of product in the last month or has them on store shelves to remove it immediately, if they have not already done so," said Jim Page, WRD Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator. "But, don't just throw it away anywhere! The concern with this specific mussel is that its' release into the wild via septic systems or from being discarded in nearby ditches, creeks, or other waterbodies could result in establishment of the species in our state and lead to major ecological and economic damage. [Continue Reading Here....](#)

MORE INFO

[Aquatic Nuisance Species](#)



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

Let's call this edition the "Events" column, as we've had some good happenings recently and see more on our horizon. First is our election of officers. Please join us on March 16 to review the nominees, propose any other members who might be interested, and vote on our officer slate for the TU new year that starts on April 1.

Second, please join me in celebrating significant events for our longtime fishing buddy and newsletter editor, Pat. He retired in December after a stellar 40- (yes, FORTY) year career with the U.S. Forest Service. Thanks, Pat, for your stewardship of our public lands. He also went in for a tuneup and, with a new heart valve, he will be ready for this spring's Dark30 river treks and many more in the years ahead.

Third, we have a good March program booked with Sarah Baker and Jeff Wright. Bring some keen ears to listen to their sales pitch and also some good questions about their proposed volunteer angler sampling of area trout streams. And hopefully the Zoom meeting link will work this time! Please accept my humblest apologies for the broken link for our February meeting. Thanks to Kathy's early heads-up an hour before the meeting, I was able to set a new link and pass the word to at least a few of you. Speaker Steve Hudson was very patient and gave a nice program to the 15 or so folks who were able to tune in to the new Zoom channel.

Fourth, we had a great annual meeting of the Chattooga River Fisheries Coalition, the co-op among DNR's, national forests, and TU councils that has helped manage the river fishery and related issues since 1986.

Rabunites gave Monte a hand by sponsoring the Zoom meeting and facilitating the discussion, while he called in via phone. Sarah Baker scribed the meeting notes. Highlights included: 1) successful fall copter stockings of both SCDNR and GADNR trout into the DH and backcountry (24K fish) sections of the river, 2) DH stockings via truck at least monthly, if not twice/month, to maintain that fishery, 3) co-op maintenance of the Nicholson Ford Road, the gated GA road, to allow stocking of the DH upper end, 4) possible, but unlikely river electrofishing next July due to virus restrictions and the need for close proximity of shocking crew members, 5) potential brook trout restoration of a SC tributary in the next few years, 6) USFS thanks to its partners and updates on "leave no trace" kiosks at Burrells Ford and the paving of one mile down to its crossing with King Creek, a restored speck stream, and 7) SCDNR biologist Dan Rankin's concept to restore the river and its banks near Highway 28, where there is severe bank erosion from old fields. Agency staffs will look into this idea further. As always, it was a very good meeting of a) information exchange and b) nurturing of working relationships among our organizations.

Last and best, we celebrate spring! Some warmer afternoons have the bugs, fish, and hopefully some of y'all stirring. Of all years, we've needed this spring. Take a ride, a hike, and maybe a rod soon. Enjoy the fresh air, spring peepers, and maybe even a riser in your local honey hole. It's a great time to be a Rabunite. I'm sure happy I'm one along with you. We'll hopefully see you "onscreen" on March 16.

Prez Jeff