



# **TIGHT LINES**

## **May 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!



**There will be NO monthly Chapter meeting or Board of Directors meeting for the month of May, 2021.**

**Go fishing instead! Yee Haaaa!!!!**

## **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](mailto:flygide@gmail.com).  
Cell- [828-371-1633](tel:828-371-1633)

Assistant Team Leader-

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

## **Rabun Chapter Assists the US Forest Service with Stream Conservation**

On May 7 members of the Rabun Chapter assisted the US Forest Service in placing large rocks in the dispersed campsites commonly known as Double Bit. These rocks will restrict vehicle access to designated areas, allowing protections to Heddon and Ridley Creeks.

For more information, contact Steve Perry, Conservation Team Leader.



## 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.**

## Congratulations, Austin Ziglar!

Austin is the camper selected by the Rabun Chapter to attend the [GA 2021 Trout Camp!](#) Austin is the son of Keith and Nikki Ziglar, residents of north Habersham County. Austin is an avid fisherman and is currently enrolled at Tallulah Falls High School, where he is a member of the [Tallulah Falls Bass Fishing Team](#).

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the GA 2020 Trout Camp was cancelled. But the GA Council and all the Trout Camp volunteers have worked tirelessly to bring back the camp for 2021!

A special **THANK YOU!** goes out to the all the volunteers, [Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited](#), [Unicoi Outfitters—Nacoochee Bend](#), and [Mack Martin's Atlanta Flyfishing School](#) for your support of the GA Trout Camp.



# GEORGIA COUNCIL TROUT CAMP 2021

**JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
8:00 AM to 5:30 PM

**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](http://www.georgiatu.org)

**SPONSORS PARTNERS**





## **Fishing Reports**

### **From Trey McFalls, May 2021**

Trey and Jerry McFalls led Boy Scout Troop 6 on a hike through Moccasin Creek State Park and along the Wildlife Trail. They learned about the fish hatchery and restricted fishing area. Trey brought his fishing equipment along and showed the boys some fly fishing skills (above the restricted area of course!)

Troop 6 hosted the younger Scouts from Pack 6 on a lake fishing trip at Camp Rainey Mountain. It was a slow start, but as dusk settled in the fish starting biting and some of the boys caught their first fish. Now they are hooked on fishing.



## Fishing Reports

### From Tammy Hopton, May 2021

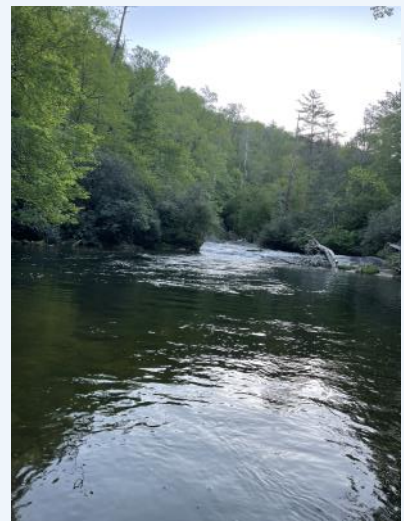
Pat is feeling much better from his recent heart surgery, so we have been fishing again. After all, it is May, the best month for flyfishing for trout in North Georgia!

We have made several trips to the Upper Backcountry of the Chattooga River. Of course, we have had to check the water levels by going to the [online USGS watergauge at Burrells Ford](#). Remember, when you see the water temperature is at 50° F or above and the water level at 200 CFS or below, **DROP EVERYTHING** and go fishing!

Daytime fishing is good below the Burrells Ford bridge, with a nice mix of stocked rainbows and stream-born browns. We are seeing daytime hatches of tan caddis flies and a mix of small light-colored mayflies.

But it has been the late afternoon fishing that has been best. We've seen some awesome light cahill hatches, with the wild browns really keying in on them starting around 7:00 pm. Yellow sally stoneflies are showing up too, along with rusty spinners and some larger, brown mayflies.

Everything (the bugs, the rises, and the catching) has been shutting off around 8:00 or so, I guess because the air and water temperature gets pretty chilly. We haven't had any "dark-thirty" action yet, but we know it will happen any day now.





**Fishing Reports, cont.**  
**From “The Dredger”, aka Jeff Durniak, April, 2021**

**From the Nantahala River, Delayed Harvest section:**



**A Parachute Adams and Prince nymph as a dropper**



**The results—a double helping of wild rainbows!**



**Switched to a #18 Prince for more flash.  
Got a 18” stocker rainbow on 6x tippet!**



## In Memory

The Rabun Chapter recently lost two beloved members.

[Ray Kearns](#), Chapter President from 2005-2006, passed away March 30, 2021.



Russ Tyre, longtime Chapter member, passed away April 24, 2021. No services are planned at this time.



Our thoughts and condolences go out to all the family of friends of these two outstanding men.

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## 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*



## 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](#)

Wayne Prosser

Ben Deal

[Kent Wilson](#)

[Ray King](#)

[Justin English](#)

[Terry Rivers](#)

[Jimmy Whiten](#)

Trey McFalls

Chapter President

Chapter Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary (Pending)

Past President

Rendezvous Chair

Director thru 2021

Director thru 2021

Director thru 2022

Director thru 2023 (Pending)

### Non-Voting Leaders

[Michele Crawford](#)

[Jerry McFalls](#)

[Pat Hopton](#)

[Steve Perry](#)

Women's Outreach, Memorials

Scouts Liaison

Tight Lines Editor

Conservation Chairperson

## Prez Notes

Trout fishing “spawned” the Rabunites in ‘86 and still connects us to this day. From our beginnings at Double Bit Camp on R\_\_\_ Creek and somewhere far up The River, we’ve celebrated the cold, clean waters of northeast Georgia and the colorful critters in them. Especially the ones that rose to our dry flies! And we’ve always made this fishing tradition our spring priority.

We had a great April Chapter meeting as we celebrated the beginning of another spring. The program (via Zoom) was called, “Favorite Fish Stories.” At this time of the year, we’d always pull our favorite folding chairs up around the evening campfire and swap stories: of the day’s events, memories of trips near and far, and favorite pranks pulled on unsuspecting fishing buddies. Some were true, others may have been spun yarns, but all were entertaining. But this year, due to Covid and social distancing restrictions, we all settled around a virtual Zoom campfire. Each member shared their favorite fish stories and there were lots of smiles and Waaah-Hooo’s.

Second, in keeping with our priorities, we’ve decided to award members with a Spring Break and have not scheduled a chapter or board meeting in May. Everyone is encouraged to head toward their favorite Dark30 waters. Don’t forget all the gold nuggets on our website. Dig them up under “Education” and then “Secrets of the Rabunites” and your odds of making fine memories will increase greatly. Pay close attention to Pat’s awesome Powerpoint on Dark30.

While y’all are playing, the Excom and Board will keep chapter business going. We now welcome our three new recruits, Wayne, Ben, and Trey, and will put them to work for you. Our tasks include budgeting for the new (4/1/21) fiscal year, annual reporting to TU National, gathering fodder from y’all for Pat’s newsletter, and responding to conservation challenges and member inquiries and needs. While we toil, you can toss your flies. Of course, you can thank us at any time with some hot intel via text or call, or a few of those extra Light Cahills that won’t fit in your fly box.

Enjoy spring. It’s a chapter tradition and this Prez’s edict to all members. Help us kick it off in true Rabunite style with your own fish story on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Then keep your gear packed and your vehicle gassed up. Just watch those curves on Warwoman Road. If you hit the ditch, we’ll give you a pull, or a ride back to town iffin’ yer stuck badly. But it will be later, AFTER our own river run. So you may wanna pack an extra sammich, drink, and flashlight to flag us down at Dark90.

I’ll see you, from a distance, on The River. Which one? Well, I don’t believe I said... Thanks for being a Rabunite.

*Prez Jeff*