

TIGHT LINES

June 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!



June, 2021 Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, June 15 at 7:00 pm

Topic: Meet the FS Wildlife Staff

Presented by David Vinson, Chattooga River and Blue Ridge Ranger Districts
Zone Wildlife Biologist

The June program will be US Forest Service zone wildlife biologist David Vinson, a Rabun County native. David has some exciting news about new additions to his wildlife staff. He'll also talk about ongoing fish and wildlife projects of interest to us and prospects for future work, some of which might be prime for partnership.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82756399765?
pwd=RERRTI5ZCtUmpzelg1d2ZnVjN4UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82756399765?pwd=RERRTI5ZCtUmpzelg1d2ZnVjN4UT09)

Meeting ID: 827 5639 9765

Passcode: 500093



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-

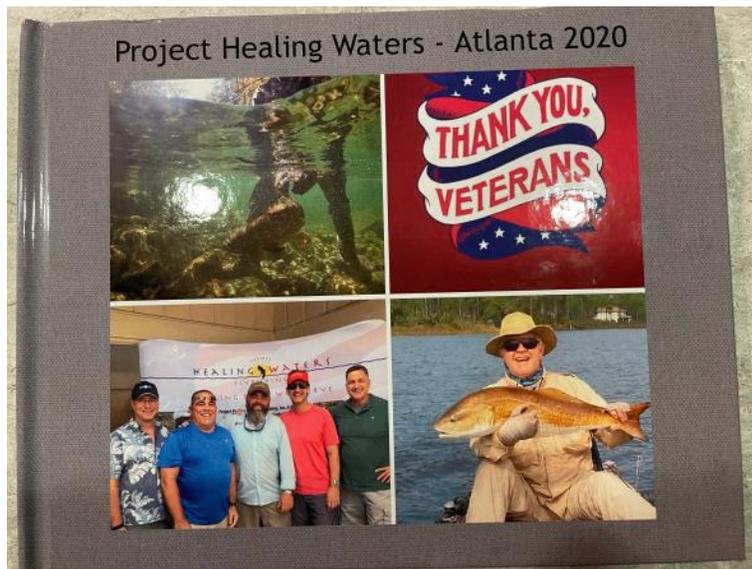
Steve Perry: email- flyguide@gmail.com.
Cell- [828-371-1633](tel:828-371-1633)

Assistant Team Leader-

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

Rabun Chapter Supports Project Healing Waters

[Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc.](#) is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings. The Atlanta Chapter recently sent a photo book to the Rabun Chapter TU to express their appreciation for our support. The book contains photos of their activities during 2020. If you would like to see this book, please contact [Tammy Hopton](#) and I will pass it on to you. The Rabun Chapter is proud to support those fine men and women who have bravely served our country. Way to go Rabun Chapter for giving where it matters the most: our veterans!



JUNE 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 |
| Green, Brown Caddis | Early | L pm | 12-14 Dark Elk Hair Caddis w/ Green 12-14 Dun & Green Caddis Pupa |
| Speckled Grey Caddis | Early | L pm | 12-14 Grey Elk Hair Caddis w/ Green 12-14 Dun & Yellow Caddis Pupa |
| Small Dun Caddis | All month | Mid am | 18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis w/ Green 18 Grey Caddis Pupa |
| Giant Black Stonefly | All Month | E am | 4-8 Black Stonefly Nymph |
| Brown Stonefly | All Month | E to mid am | 10-12 Brown Stonefly Nymph |
| Light Cahill Mayfly | Late | E to L pm | 12-14 Light Cahill 12-14 Light Cahill Nymph |
| Trico Mayfly | Mid-Late | Mid am | 20 Parachute Trico |
| Trico Spinner Fall | Mid-Late | Late am | 20-22 Polywing Black Spinner |
| Midges | All month | All day | 18-20 Griffiths Gnat 18-20 Midge Pupa |
| Terrestrial | All month | All day | Ants, beetles, crickets, inch worms, etc. |

“The water you touch in a river is the last of that which has passed, and the first of that which is coming; thus it is with time.”

Leonardo Da Vinci

Fishing Reports

From Jeff Durniak, aka The Dredger, June 2021

April and May were pretty darn good troutng months. We had a few big rains that briefly blew out streams, but we were generally dry and fairly cool. That meant low, clear water, abundant bugs, and plenty of trout noses poking up at dusk in April and at Dark30 by late May. I hope you had a chance to partake in our favorite Rabunite spring pastime (err, addiction), especially where the Delayed Harvest stockers inflated our egos.

Now summer is knocking. Wide streams that lack total tree coverage get too warm for good troutng, so go higher to the smaller, shaded waters or hit a cold tailwater like the Toccoa. It's time to retire your 9-foot dry fly rod and pull out the 7-foot, three weight flea pole to prospect through the rhododendron tunnels for little wild bows and specks. All you need is a 6-7 foot, 4X leader, a size16 elk hair caddis, and the standard Rabunite approach of: "dress like a rhododendron bush, stalk like a blue heron, and stick 'em with a frog gig (aka cast short)." Our wild mountain jewels compensate for their small size with spunk and colors. A real trophy now might nose up to the 9-inch mark. Best bets; all of our county's abundant, shaded, headwater streams. And the Smokies. Why? Because they cheat! Those NC peaks have an extra thousand feet of elevation and colder water than our worn-down JoJa summits, and creek temps below about 66F means that the trout game is still "ON" up there. Ya'll know where to go. But iffin' you don't, buy past Rendezvous speaker Jim Casada's book on Smokies troutng, because I DO believe he said... And watch the daily fishing reports by Little River Outfitters in Townsend, TN. Also, bring your camera and spot a few elk to end your dandy day in the park.

One tip for the middle sized streams with some room between tree limbs- try a really long pole, like those darn 10-11 foot Euro rods. They make stalking and hi-sticking much easier! Try a big, bushy yellow stimmy on a short leader as your dry and drop a tungsten mop, Sexy Walts worm, or black fur ant a few feet off the back. Cast short, hi-stick, and have the only dry, or maybe just a foot of tippet, touch the water to ensure a drag-free drift in the pocket water. The stimmy is your strike indicator in the midday shade and then the trouts' main target at dusk. Trust me, as much as you can trust any angling tale muttered by a Rabunite.

Hey, and we're not elitists. Some of us have been known to look for fresh tire tracks and toss a half a nightcrawler on our ugly stick ultralights. Fresh trout for supper, courtesy of the GAWRD trout trucks, is another fringe benefit of hillbilly life and a great starter for our kids, the future Rabunites. Bait-chuckers are also fans of clean, cold water, and we Rabunites welcome all anglers, regardless of (legal) angling methods, to our conservation ranks. Remember to go the GAWRD trout fishing page and sign up for their Friday trout stocking reports, especially if you wanna be a hero to your kids!



Fishing Reports, cont.

From Jeff Durniak, aka The Dredger, June 2021

Better yet- change flavors. Go for warmwater critters. Grab a stout 5- or 6-weight rod and aim for river or pond bass and bream. Rabunites have a perfect home base for bassin'. We have smalljaws to our north, Bartrams to the east, and spots and shoalies to the south. And largelips are littered across flat waters everywhere! You might even catch five different bass species and qualify for the GAWRD bass slam award. So grab a 9ft, 1X leader, a few small white or chartreuse poppers, a white Kent's stealth bomber, a big, black woolly bugger, and a crayfish fly (hairy fodder) and wet-wade our low summer rivers for bass and bream at dusk. Have you ever caught some of those Chattooga redbreasts? Have you ever seen a more colorful bream?

Whether it's tiny trout on the mountaintop, Tooga redbreasts under the 76 bridge, or bulldogging bass from tree-lined riverbanks, Rabunite angling isn't over cuz it's hot outside. Our summertime menu is simply larger! So go get 'em. For more tips (some folks call them fibs) follow my posts at the UO blog: blog.angler.management. As long as you have a connection to that internet thingy, you're in. There's no need to be on the antisocial media channels like Facebook and Instagram. The blog is curmudgeon-friendly, and even a bit more effective than smoke signals.

Good luck this summer. Send reports and pics to Pat to help him beef up Tightlines. Its fine to say you caught them at, well, you know.

IDBIS.



Fishing Reports

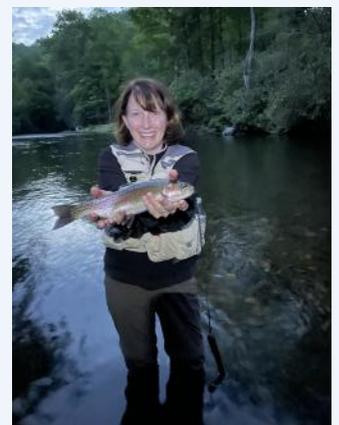
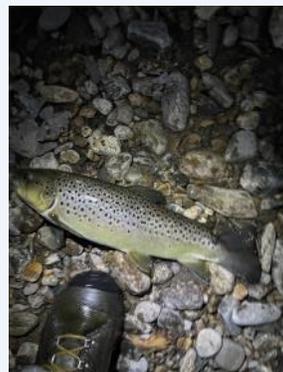
From Tammy Hopton, June 2021

Pat and I had an **AWESOME** time fishing during the month of May! Yes, there were some days when the water was high, and there were some days when the water temperatures were cool enough to make us wear waders, but that didn't stop us. And by the middle of the month God smiled down on us and the water levels receded, the temperatures warmed up for wet wading, and the bugs started hatching! The fishing—and catching—was great!

We had some incredible evenings fishing the Chattooga Upper Backcountry. Where exactly, you ask? Let's just say we were well above the Burrells Ford bridge, where every fish caught is a wild, stream-bred brown trout. We did not catch any exceptionally big fish, but the 12-14 inch browns are a real trophy in our minds, and it makes the long walks in and out (in the dark!) well worth it.

Later in the month we started fishing some private waters in North Carolina and had many incredible evenings catching wild rainbow and brown trout. Just like clockwork, around May 20 the Green Drake mayflies starting hatching and just a few days later the spinners, known as Coffin Flies, began showing up. This makes for some serious "Dark Thirty" fishing! It's all a blur now but we fished at least 12 days in a row, leaving Rabun County around 4:00 pm and not getting home until midnight, eating supper streamside. Yes, it was tiring but as you can see from the pictures, it was well worth it.

Now that the Spring season is over and the river temperatures are warming up, we'll take a break from trout fishing and catch up on work around the house, fish for warm water species, and plan for our annual trip "West of Hiwassee". Life is good.



Fishing Reports

From Brian Weeks, June 2021

The recent ending of the DH season brought me to Smith Creek on the first day you can keep 'em, primarily to enjoy fishing, and secondarily to catch some groceries for a fish fry.

By the time I got there in the afternoon, as one would expect, all the popular spots were covered up. So I tried some of the lesser fished areas while the crowd was still there, then the more heavily pressured stretches once most anglers had left.

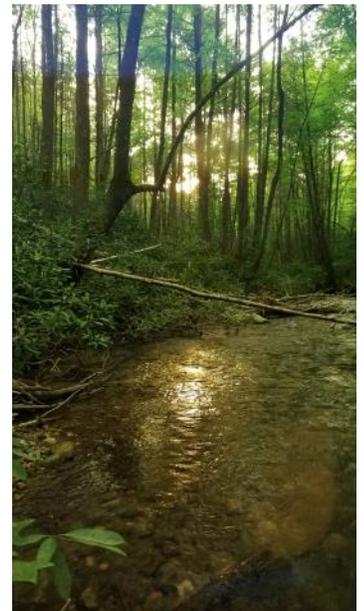
A handful of snits came from some of the more popular spots later in the evening. But earlier in the afternoon, a stretch less traveled offered up a nice 18 incher. All of 'em went "in the bag." And I'll tell ya. For those of you who have filleted trout before, you know. It sure is nice to fillet one big one rather than a bunch of little ones!

And yes, a little milk, some homemade fish fry seasoning, and a quarter inch of hot oil in a cast iron skillet made for a proper Sunday fish fry indeed.

When the water temps rise, my destinations tend to rise - either in elevation or latitude. So a few days later, in light of the warming trend, I returned to our beautiful north Georgia mountains for a round of speck hunting armed with my trusty 2wt on some backwoods Appalachian bluelines I'd never been to before. I didn't find any bookies, but I did get into some pretty wild rainbows who were happy to take my #18 tan elk hair caddis amongst the pretty blooming mountain laurel.

There was a lot of driving, hiking, and exploring (and crawling) that day. And in the process, I unexpectedly but pleasantly found a couple other small streams that looked quite promising that I'd like to return to soon.

Which ones? I don't believe I said.



He doesn't just trout fish!

Our own Rabunite Charlie Breithaupt is featured at the Rabun County Library this month! His watercolor display will be available through June. Stop by and see the magic!



Charlie Breithaupt

Off and on for the last fifty years I have "dabbled" with watercolors. It all began when I was teaching school in Atlanta and a fellow teacher, Jack Shields, an accomplished artist, invited me to join a painting class he was teaching. That class, along with Jack's encouragement, got me started on a hobby that has lasted a lifetime. Along the way I have attended a few workshops and some group lessons. Currently I attend a weekly group lesson at Sautee Nacoochee Center for the Arts, taught by Becky Peebles. Becky's teaching and encouraging support have added much to my painting skills. My work has been juried into the Gallery at SNCA where occasionally I have works on display and for sale.

Painting is a great source of satisfaction for me. With watercolors, there are many surprises, like Forrest Gump with his box of chocolates. When my effort produces a painting I really like, I am thrilled.

I try to paint a "painting" rather than a picture. While I have a subject in mind, an exact replica is not my goal. I like to have things a little abstract and leave the final interpretation to the beholder. I enjoy painting flowers, landscapes, sunsets, old barns and things about trout fishing.

Every year I paint our Christmas card and we send it, along with the obligatory letter about what we've done that year, to a long list of friends and relatives. Hopefully they enjoy at least the card! This is a happy and treasured tradition for us.

My wife Kathy is my greatest cheerleader, and we enjoy our time together with our dogs and cat. We feel blessed to have a happy home in Rabun County.

It is an honor to share this artwork with you.



Rabun Chapter Membership Update

Current membership: 161 adult members and 0 Stream Explorers

Welcome New Members!

None this month.

Thanks for Re-Uping!

Dwayne Thompson, Ryan Olshewske, Michael Leonard, and Trey McFalls.

Members That Need to Re-Up!

Gene Roberts, Derek Porter, Corey Smith, Roger Kilby, Jan Meacham, and Edmond Wall.

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Foam Beetle

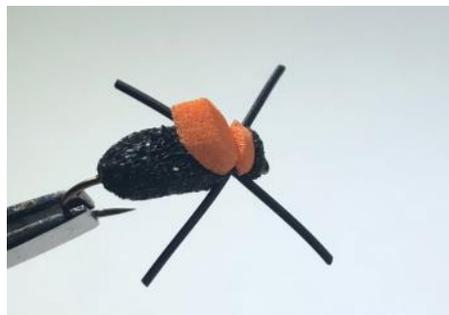
HOOK: Dry Fly Hook #12

BODY: Peacock Herl

BACK: Foam Rubber

LEGS: Medium Leg Material

POST: Orange Foam



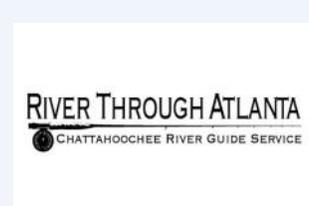
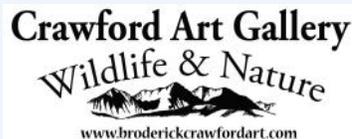
GREAT FLY TO HAVE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS WHEN OTHER PATTERNS HAVE SLOWED DOWN.

See you on The River! Terry



The hot weather and light hatches of July and August are two of the reasons (excuses really) why many Rabunites make annual treks to fish and camp “West of Hiawassee”, or as Lewis Reeves Jr. called it, “Out Yonder”.

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

Past President

Rendezvous Chair

Director thru 2021

Director thru 2021

Director thru 2022

Director thru 2023

Non-Voting Leaders

[Michele Crawford](#)

[Jerry McFalls](#)

[Pat Hopton](#)

[Steve Perry](#)

Women's Outreach, Memorials

Scouts Liaison

Tight Lines Editor

Conservation Chairperson

Prez Notes

I sure hope ya'll had a great spring and got outside often to catch the hatches and photograph the blooming laurels. Remember, our BOD gave us the whole month off for hydrotherapy! I fished often in April, but spent much of May catching up with family doctor visits and helping Karen to welcome a 1.5 lb cottonball, Dolly Grace, to our clan. She joins her adoptive older sister, our fluffy first daughter, Marley at Maltese-ShihTzu Central.

This spring we lost two great Rabunite friends, Ray and Russell, who contributed much to our chapter. Ray Kearns was a real worker bee and a great chapter prez! I fondly remember him, dripping wet from the chest down, with sledgehammer in hand during our stream work projects. Russ Tyre "retyred" to Florida, but made it up here as often as possible. In 7th grade in Atlanta, he fought a classmate and then they became best friends for life! We were lucky enough to hear 70 years of Russ/Doug Adams stories around our campfires after some great days fishing at IDBIS creek. Talk about some belly-laughs! I cherish those memories of our first Rabunite generation, led by Doug, Ray, Russ, Landreth, Kelly, and other legends. When it's my time to go around the bend, I sure hope they'll have a fireside folding chair waiting on me, too.

Welcome to summer. I know you're as glad as me to live up here in the cooler mountains. As I write this, Kathy, Charlie, Rodney Tumlin, and their merry band of GATU volunteers are hosting the Trout Camp kids for this year's weekend event. Please me in a celebratory "waah-Hoo" to them for their youth education efforts.

We have a very good June program planned, so please Zoom in on the 15th. Our US Forest Service zone wildlife biologist (and Rabun County native) David Vinson will introduce his new staff members and update us on current and future hopes and plans for aquatic resource work in our area. Tune in, discover your new federal friends, and talk with David as we look into opps for Rabunite assistance.

In closing, congrats! We've made it through a tough year of confinement and concern. The Rabunite Excom and Board made your well-being our first and foremost priority. And we succeeded in that goal.

Now, we appear to be past the worst of the virus, and your chapter leaders will be discussing safe "Rabunite re-emergence." I know we're all looking forward to getting together again and getting some work done on our local waters with our great state and federal partners. Stay tuned as we plot our steps forward and hopefully get back to regular Rabunite business. If you have ideas, questions, or concerns, I encourage you to share them with your favorite Board member or me.

In the meantime, please put up with Zoom at least once more and help us warmly welcome David, and possibly a new staffer or two if their work schedules allow them to Zoom, too. Let's celebrate the great days that lay ahead of us. And thanks for being a Rabunite.

Prez Jeff