



TIGHT LINES

July 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 Chapter Family Picnic, monthly meetings, or any other Chapter activities during the months of July and August, 2021.

We hope to see you in September!

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)

Other Chapter Work Day—Call for Volunteers

Do you want to help with a stream conservation project? Check out this list of stream conservation project work days hosted by other Chapters.

There will be more information about the workday along with a sign-up form at each Lead Chapter's web site. If you have questions, please contact that Chapter.

Please participate at your own risk, wear a mask if you desire, and realize there could be close contact with other people.

- July 10th, Lovingood Creek. Lead: [Oconee River Chapter](#).
- July 13, Chattooga Stream Sampling. Lead: [GA DNR](#) . More information on page 3.
- July 17, Wilks Creek. Lead : [Upper Chattahoochee Chapter](#).
- August 21, Johns Creek. Lead: [Blue Ridge Mountain Chapter](#).
- August 28, Pretty Branch. Lead: [Tailwater Chapter](#) with Boy Scouts .



Annual Chattooga River Sampling Work Day

We have decided to move forward with this year's sampling on the following date(s):

Tuesday, July 13th -Spoonauger

Tuesday, July 20th -Rain Date

Safety protocol will follow CDC guidelines; those who have not been vaccinated and who are closer than 6 ft from another person should wear a mask. We will have waiver forms for participants to sign.

Please plan to meet at 8:30 AM at Burrells Ford Bridge (34.974819, -83.114867). Please bring waders, lunch, & water.

Thank you all for your participation in and dedication to this incredible sampling event. It is truly an honor to partake in this successful partnership. Please let me know if you intend to be there by filling out this form: [Spoonauger - July 13th Annual Chattooga River Sampling • Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited \(georgiatu.org\)](https://georgiatu.org/Spoonauger-July-13th-Annual-Chattooga-River-Sampling)

If you have any questions, please let me or Dan Rankin know. Looking forward to seeing you on the river!

Appreciatively,
Sarah Baker
GA DNR Fisheries Biologist



Thank You to the US Forest Service, Chattooga River Ranger District, for repairing the Tallulah River Handicap Accessible Fishing Pier!



Thank You to the US Forest Service, Chattooga River Ranger District, and Towns County Road Department for beginning repairs and erosion control on the Charlies Creek Road!



A Report on the 2021 Georgia Trout Camp From Charlie Breithaupt

Trout Camp 2021 was different. After sixteen years of having a six-day overnight camp with 24 campers we were shut down by the pandemic. After missing a year completely, we emerged with a new plan of a two-day Day Camp with 12 campers. It went as well as could be expected.

Camp was held at The Atlanta Flyfishing School in Cumming, GA. On Saturday morning twelve campers, 10 boys and 2 girls, representing 8 of the 12 Georgia chapters, arrived to start learning all about fishing for trout, knots, casting, fly tying, equipment and, of course, conservation, taught by Sarah Baker from Georgia DNR. Campers returned on Sunday morning for more of the same and then packed up, with a sack lunch for the road, and headed to Unicoi Outfitters in Helen, GA for an afternoon of fishing on the Chattahoochee River. Before getting into the river to fish, the campers had a lesson in entomology from Kathy Church from Smithgall Woods. Then the campers fished with guides from Unicoi, and all experienced the thrill of catching a trout.

Special thanks go to Mack Martin, not only for all his work but, also, for making his school available for our use. To Jimmy Harris for hosting us at Nacoochee Bend and for Kathy Harris for being our camp nurse. To Rodney Tumlin, the Camp Director; to Terry Rivers who taught the fly-tying sessions; to Hunter Pittman, our casting instructor, and to several unsung heroes who did all the dirty work.

All the administration, logistics and organization that takes place in the months and days prior to camp is successful due to skill and effort of Kathy Breithaupt, Council Chairman and Camp Coordinator. It just would not work without what she does.

The response from campers, parents, and TU volunteers has been that this year's camp was a worthwhile and enjoyable experience. The Trout Camp Committee will be gathering information to decide on the future of our camp. Factors to be considered are: Covid restrictions, accommodations available, expense, willingness of volunteers, and leadership. How and what we do at camp is up to us; we just must do it well. So far, we have done so. If you have ideas or, better still, want to be involved, let me hear from you.

Charlie Breithaupt knc615@windstream.net



Thank You to all the Volunteers at the 2021 Georgia Trout Camp!

	Young Mentors		
	Chapter	First	Last
1	Rabun	Avril	Adams
2	Cohutta	Garrett	Hamilton
3	Oconee River	Simon	Hodson
4	Cohutta	Nathan	Phillips
	Adult Mentors		
1	Rabun	Brooks	Adams
2	Rabun	Charlie	Breithaupt
3	Rabun	Kathy	Breithaupt
4	Cohutta	Cameron	Furr
5	Cohutta	Wally	Gardner
6	Foothills	Jimmy	Harris
7	Foothills	Kathy	Harris
8	Upper Chattahoochee	Ryan	Hartley
9	Chattahoochee Nantahala	Harold	Hogan
10	UCCTU	Mack	Martin
11	Cohutta	Diane	Minick
12	Cohutta	Ron	Minick
13	Cohutta	Hunter	Pittman
14	Cohutta	Jason	Pritchett
15	Rabun	Terry	Rivers
16	Chattahoochee Nantahala	Ben	Telenko
17	Cohutta	Rodney	Tumlin
18	Cohutta	Joe	Tumlin
19	Cohutta	Steve	Westmoreland
20	Rabun	Jimmy	Whiten
21	Cohutta	Sid	Wilson
22	Cohutta	Nelson	Withers

Fishing Reports

Submitted by Jeff Durniak, 7/4/21

Summer is typically a tough time for Southeastern trout. As we discussed last month, there are two keys to our seasonal success: 1) hunt for cold water and 2) change flavors.

Cold water (mid 60's or lower) is crucial for trout appetites and we can find it a) in tiny, shaded, high-elevation creeks, b) below big dams conserving winter water (Buford, Blue Ridge, Norris, Holston, etc) and c) in the Rockies, as snowmelt and really high elevations keep bigger streams cold and the cutthroats happy. Around here, try the abundant head-water creeks for small rainbows and maybe a speck or two. You just need a short rod, a good stalk, and a size 16 tan caddis dry to generate some smiles. The Smokies also have higher mountains and slightly larger streams in the shade that can fish well through summer. Your best times are before 11AM and after 7PM, as the high sun drives wild fish toward cover and into a long afternoon siesta. Try yellow and black fly patterns. For tailwaters. Give Blue Ridge a try at a public access or take a float. Visit or call Cohutta Fishing Company's shop in Blue Ridge for the latest intel. Again, the low-sunlight mornings are best.

The second option for many of us summer flyrodders is pursuing warmwater species. We aim for critters other than trout. Pond and river bass and bream are colorful, fun, and suckers for well-placed bugs at dawn and dusk. Have your terrestrials ready and make sure most, if not all, of them have long, rubber legs. If the water is high or stained, move the bugs with some strips or pops. But when the water is low and clear, dead-drift them for long stretches, giving them only a slight twitch every 10-20 seconds. We have small-lake bream and largemouths everywhere. But we're also blessed with a variety of river species, from Redbreast to Bartrams to Chattahoochees to Shoalies to Smallies, within an easy Rabunite drive. Grab a 5 or 6-weight rod, some small bream poppers, a couple of black fur ants to drop below the bream popper, a few white Kent's Stealth Bombers, and a streamer or two and aim for a local river. (Check out the basic bass bug box here: <https://coastalanglermag.com/the-river-bass-box/>)

First peruse the river's USGS flow gauge to ensure that a storm spike hasn't muddied it, arrive as the sun sets behind the trees at 7PM, and fish the shadows til dark. These sunfish family members will take your mind off trout until cold water returns. Good luck during the summer "off" season for many trouting fans. I hope you can turn your summer switch from "off" to "on" with some of these tips.



Fishing Reports, cont.

Submitted by Tammy Hopton, 7/9/21

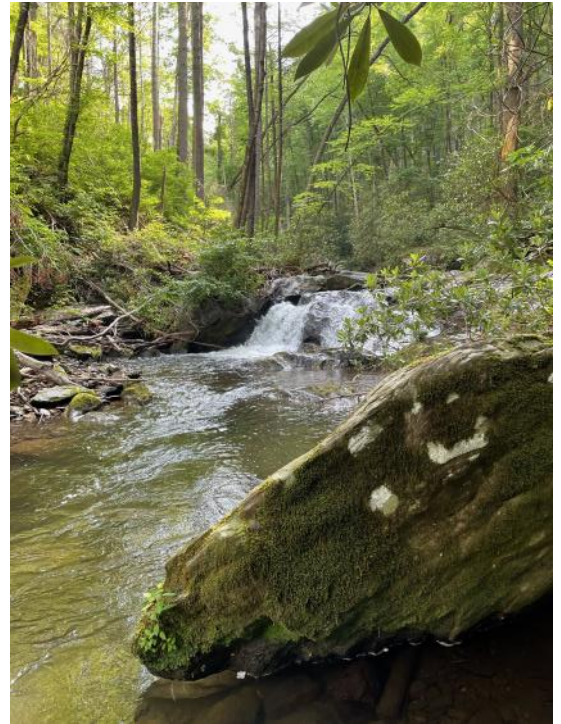
This morning instead of yoga I decided to make a quick fishing trip for my morning exercise. I have never fished the Coleman River and have been wanting to for a long time. It was a cloudy, nice cool morning. I got there about 8:15, a little later than I had hoped.

No one was parked at the trail head, so I had it all to myself. I started fishing just above the bridge and got a few hits right away but I could tell they were small fish. I managed to lose my fly twice in just a few minutes in overhanging trees. After missing those first few fish, I changed my fly to something smaller: a size 16 Light Cahill.

Going up the creek was steep and rough, so I hopscotched pools by walking the trail and dropping down into the creek when the water looked good. I finally caught two small, but very pretty, rainbows at a nice narrow run just at the first campsite. No pictures, I optimistically thought I might catch a bigger one soon.

Further up the trail I dropped into a nice series of pools below a small waterfall. I missed one at the bottom pool but worked my way up to just below the falls. There I cast my fly so it catches the current that takes it into an eddy where the foam is swirling. Perfect place for a nice fish and sure enough my fly is hit with a flash. I react quickly but miss! Darn! It was a good 'un and I just flat-out missed it!

Just at that time I hear a clap of thunder and the rain starts coming down. Walking out I was smiling and dripping wet, but already planning my next trip to the beautiful Coleman River.



Rabun Chapter Membership Update

Current membership: 163 adult members and 0 Stream Explorers.

Welcome New Members!

Allan Stephens from Savannah, GA and Andrew Welch from Rabun Gap, GA.

Thanks for Re-Uping!

Dwayne Thompson, Monte Seehorn, Maxie Gates, Leroy Powell, Derek Porter, Glenn English, Keith Vickers, Patrick Crawford, Eedee Adams, and Jan Meacham.

Members That Need to Re-Up!

Jim Blalock, Mike Fuller, Calder Adams, Charles Pennington, Phil Upchurch, Joy Lewis, Harold Ray, Janis Yarrow, and Kaleb Thrasher.

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Foam Grasshopper

HOOK: Dry Fly Hook #10-14

BODY: Peacock Herl or Dubbing of Your Choice

BACK: Black, Brown, or Yellow Foam Rubber

LEGS: Medium Leg Material to Match Color of Foam

WING: White Antron or White Elk/Deer Hair



IT'S THE TIME OF THE YEAR TO FISH TERRESTRIALS! YOU CAN'T GO WRONG USING HOPPERS, BEETLES, OR ANTS. TRY DROPPING A SMALL CRAYFISH OFF THE BACK AND HOLD ON!

See you on The River! Terry

JULY 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
Golden Stonefly	All Month	E am	8-12 Ginger Stimulator 6-10 Golden Stonefly Nymph
Brown Stonefly	All Month	E to mid am	10-12 Brown Stonefly Nymph
Light Cahill Mayfly	All month	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.

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 hope your Rabunite summer is going well. It's typically a slow time for trout fishing here in our region, but a nice time for family vacations and distant treks by our trout addicts to the hallowed waters far "west of Hiwassee." In fact, the Chapter normally takes August off to accommodate our travelers, in hopes of their great fish stories brought back to share with us, via Pat's great newsletter, every fall. I hope you're enjoying the warm weather season and deciding where and when to make new memories with family and close friends.

We had a nice, productive June chapter (via Zoom) meeting with USFS biologist David Vinson, who introduced his new staff members, spoke of ongoing fish and wildlife projects, and heard our concerns on pier repair and stream sedimentation. It was an open, honest, and productive session with our federal partner.

In our June BOD meeting, the BOD and I decided to stay on a conservative course in terms of member gatherings. Our only "traditional" summer gathering is the July picnic. After review of public health data and guidelines, we decided to forego this event and look forward to chapter gathering opportunities this fall, when the weather is cooler and the public health horizon will be clearer. I'd like to thank all BOD members for their engagement each meeting on our agenda, from gathering plans to members' concerns (ex; stream sedimentation) to chapter budgeting. I'd especially like to thank all of you, our members, for your patience and perseverance over the last year.

In the meantime, we are working primarily with USFS on conservation plans with Rabunite partnership potential. There's been recent good news, via Pat and Tammy's recons and reporting, as the Tallulah River accessible fishing pier is repaired and now reopened to public use. The USFS and Towns County are repairing the Charlies Creek Road to reduce illegal off-road vehicle use and its resulting stream sedimentation. The BOD and Steve Perry will continue to work with USFS (Ranger Ryan and biologist David) on prioritized plans for cooperative work, from pier enhancement (to protect it from future floods), to Double Bit Camp/Reed Creek rehab, to USFS road maintenance to reduce silty runoff. We will keep you informed of progress and opportunities for you to help.

You can also help in other ways. Pat's always fishing for newsletter fodder, so toss a brief email or a nice pic or two his way. Tammy and I are keeping the Facebook page afloat and we'd welcome your news and photos to refresh our page and inform our members of cohorts' news. I'm always on the hunt for good Chapter programs and welcome your ideas.

Yes, it's hot, but most of us hang out up here, in the shady, high elevations where little, wild, headwater trout will sip our dry fly any time of the day, and where waterfall hikes are always refreshing and scenic. So enjoy "Rabunite life" and know how much you are appreciated by the BOD and me!

Prez Jeff