



TIGHT LINES

September 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.

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September, 2021 Rabun Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 21 at 7:00 pm

“GA Trout Hatchery Update” by Anthony Rabern

Join us online on 9/21 for our September program, “Georgia Trout Hatchery Update,” by GAWRD fisheries regional supervisor Anthony Rabern. Anthony will brief us on the Burton Hatchery renovation, as well as new challenges with trout diseases discovered at two state hatcheries. He also looks forward to a Q&A session with our audience.

We all enjoy chasing wild fish. But many of us also like the angling opportunities generated by hatchery fish, from Tallulah River stockers in our frying pan to the Tooga's Delayed Harvest and helicopter trout to Lake Burton's holdover browns. Tune in on the third Tuesday in September to learn the latest news and find out what we can do to help Anthony and his staff to maintain our state's trout program. Zoom meeting info follows.

Topic: Rabun TU Sept Chapter Meeting - 9/21/21 at 7PM

Time: Sep 21, 2021 06:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84622969205?pwd=cZqUWRxdGJ3YitaUHdKMWdpNDhyUT09>

Meeting ID: 846 2296 9205

Passcode: 854632



DNR Investigating Trout Diseases at Hatcheries

SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA
Tuesday, August 24, 2021 - 16:00

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) is investigating Whirling Disease (WHD) and Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHNV) in hatchery-raised trout at the Buford and Summerville Trout Hatcheries.

Initial testing results indicate that both hatcheries are positive for WHD and IHNV.

"While neither WHD or IHNV are harmful to humans, these diseases can cause high trout mortalities in hatchery systems and in the wild, and there are no known therapeutic treatments to eliminate these pathogens," said WRD Chief of Fisheries Scott Robinson. "As a result, Georgia WRD has temporarily suspended its trout stocking program and is in the process of collecting additional trout samples for disease analysis, investigating the source for both pathogens, and identifying disinfectant methodologies for treating the hatcheries."

Whirling Disease: This is the first documented occurrence of whirling disease in Georgia. First detected in the U.S. in 1958, this disease is found in more than 20 states, including the Watauga River in North Carolina in 2015. Whirling disease can cause 90 percent or greater mortality of young rainbow trout and can have serious impacts to wild and hatchery trout populations. The disease is caused by the microscopic parasite *Myxobolus cerebralis*, which damages cartilage and skeletal tissue in trout causing diseased fish to swim in a "whirling" motion.

Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHNV): While IHNV has not previously been found in Georgia, it has been documented in salmonids in the Pacific Northwest. The disease is caused by the Salmonid Novirhabdovirus and is passed through contact with urine, mucus, and other fluids. All species of trout are susceptible. The virus can cause high trout mortalities in hatchery systems and in the wild. There are no therapeutic treatments to eliminate the pathogen. Infected fish may exhibit lethargy, whirling behavior, darkened coloration, and swelling in the head and abdomen.

If you catch a trout that you think may be affected by WHD or IHNV, here are ways to help:

- DO take photos and video of the fish, including close ups of its spine.
- DO note where it was caught (waterbody, landmarks, or GPS coordinates).
- DO properly clean all equipment such as boats, trailers, waders, boots, float tubes and fins of mud before leaving an area when fishing. Thoroughly dry equipment in the sun if possible before reuse. If you are traveling directly to other waters, clean your equipment with a 10 percent solution of chlorine bleach or use another set of equipment.
- DON'T transport live fish between bodies of water or release or dispose of them anywhere other than the location they were caught.
- E-mail If you observe the symptoms of WHD or INHV in fish. Notify the Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division at trout@dnr.ga.gov.

More information about fish disease in Georgia can be found at: <https://georgiawildlife.com/ans#diseases>.



Brown Trout with black, deformed tail.

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.
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Assistant Team Leader-

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

Fishing Reports

Submitted by Calder Adams, 9/6/21

A 15" Rainbow!



Calder: "Hey Mr Pat, look at this fish I caught!"

Mr Pat: "That's a good 'un, Calder! Where did you catch it?"

Calder: "I don't believe I said."

The acorn doesn't land far from the tree.

Fishing Reports

Submitted by Jeff Durniak, 9/6/21

The Headwaters are Fishing Great!

Small stream fishing was good all summer if we went high and fished before lunch. It was all about cold water. Wild fish got spookier as seasonal flows dropped, and we had to lighten tippets and downsize our dries to turn refusals into takes.

Fishing just picked up in the last two weeks as the two tropical storms boosted stream-flows and dropped water temps. A fluffy size 14 elk hair caddis or chubby Chernobyl on 5X tippet drew lots of strikes in the soft pockets and slow eddies right against stream banks.

September now brings shorter days and colder nights, and that's good news for your headwater trout trips. Warm afternoons may still dampen the action on larger streams, so avoid them for several more weeks until you see their daily high temps stay well below 70.

But If you like rises to a dry fly, our headwaters are great. A good stalk and a drag-free drift will get you several dozen hits in a half-day trip. The colors on those wild fish are amazing and will compensate for their size. And, every now and then, a 9-inch lunker will top your trip. On a 7 foot, two or three-weight rod, they're a great fight. My best this summer was a 12-inch beast!

Soon October will arrive and those bigger streams in our tri-state area will fish well again. Start restocking your fly boxes now for the Delayed Harvest stockers and the wild browns of fall.



Fishing Reports

Submitted by Tammy Hopton, 9/8/21

Retirement is Good!

To celebrate our first year of retirement, Pat and I spent four weeks “West of Hiawasee” camping, fishing, hiking, visiting with old friends, making new friends, and seeing family. The smoke from the wildfires in California was not too bad, but was still noticeable. The weather was fantastic: crisp cool mornings and bright sunny days most of the time. We found the smaller streams and headwaters to be cold and had good flows. Best of all, the fishing—and catching—was great!

While the entire trip was good, here are a few highlights (to me):

One day we hiked into the headwaters of a major river, deep into the Wilderness Area, where the “river” was just a small stream. We had a day of steadily catching Snake River cutthroats, beautiful fish covered with small black spots. At one particularly nice spot, I hooked a big cutthroat. It rolled at the surface when getting the fly and I saw how just how big he was—easily 18” or better! When that big fish realized he was connected to my line he proceeded race downstream through rapids and over waterfalls. I finally wore him down (I was using my new 3-weight rod just purchased from Reeves) and was going to land him in the calmest spot I could find. He dodged my scooping net several times only to run between my legs and wrap the leader around my pants and break off. He was probably the biggest fish of the trip and I lost him!

On another day, after a long hike into the headwaters of a different stream and fishing upstream way from the truck all day, we decided it was time to head back before it started getting dark (this was serious grizzly country!). On this stream we had both had caught lots of Yellowstone cutthroats and brookies. Pat said he was going to see if he could find the trail by walking into the woods beside the river and I should keep fishing until he gets back. I have this problem with always wanting to see the next hole or to see what is around the next bend. So I walked up the creek a little and found a beautiful deep run with a huge rock at the head of it. A dead tree had fallen into the bottom of the run so I had to be careful with my casts. I cast a couple of times just behind the rock, and BAM! a big trout rolled at the surface and took my fly. I landed him just in time for Pat to take a picture. He always seems to walk away when I do my best of fishing!

On another stream, on another day, Pat and I are hop scotching each other up the creek. We had started early in day and the water was cold! I guess because of the cold water the catching was slow at first. But after the sun warmed the water a bit the catching got better. I was in the lead after a while I notice Pat is still far behind me. He is fishing a nice long run and not moving from it. I look closer and... he is catching fish after fish! So I move on upstream and get to a good deep run myself. There I see the cutthroats and brookies are jumping out of the water and my every cast is met with a missed strike or fish at the end of my line. It was incredible! It's then I notice the may flies on the water. We had a hatch of some sort happening! They were a fairly large grey-colored mayfly and the fish were going crazy over them! After meeting up with Pat he said he had the same thing happening to him and that's why he stayed in that one spot for so long.

There were so many things about this trip that were great besides the fishing. We saw a grizzly bear, bighorn sheep, mule deer, pronghorns, and lots of bald eagles. Surprisingly we saw no elk or moose.

But one of the most fun parts of the trip were the people we met up with along the way. We got to spend time fishing and sitting around the campfire with Terry Rivers, Monte English, Phil Upchurch and Jimmy Whiten—what fun! We also were treated to a gourmet supper one evening with Kyle Burrell at his cabin.... yum!! My brother, Terrell Tankersly, came up from his home in Colorado and spent a day with us—it's been a few years since I had seen him and it sure was good to catch up. We talked to many local folks, learning about their way of life and making new friends in the process.

All in all, it was a trip for the memory book. I'm already thinking of going back. Yes, retirement is good!



Fishing Reports
Submitted by Terry Rivers and Jimmy Whiten, 9/9/21

No Report, Just Pictures!



Fishing Reports
Submitted by Kent Wilson, 9/11/21

Way, Way West of Hiawasse!

During the first week of September, Rabunites Larry Walker, Kent Wilson and Frank Patton along with Frank's son Jay and son-in-law Nathan Stanaway converged on the small coastal town of Cordova, Alaska to target the fall run of Coho salmon.

Cordova is located within a temperate rain forest and to no one's surprise rain showers were present for most of the trip. The resulting high-water conditions presented some unique challenges.

Not to be deterred, the group set out the first day on a hike up the Ibek River where Larry managed to land his first ever Coho aka silver salmon and the only fish of the day. The second day found the group searching the incoming tide for fresh silvers on the Eyak River. Persistence paid off and the group managed to each catch their three fish limits with Larry landing the largest fish of the day after a thirty-minute battle up and down the river. (See photo)



Day three found the group on a canoe float trip down the Alaganik Slough where high water made for a scenic trip, but not a highly productive one as far as fishing success. (See photo)



Day four started with an hour-long boat ride up the coast to a favorite spot from previous trips known strangely enough as Hell's Hole. The tide turned, so to speak, and the fishing was fast and furious with each person limiting out before lunch. The bite remained strong with countless fish being brought to hand on then barbless hooks and released to continue their journey to the spawning grounds. An early start on the ride back down the coast allowed for a short stint of saltwater fishing with a single halibut and several rockfish added to the day's tally. (See photo)



The last day of fishing was spent on a rematch with the ravenous silvers at Hell's Hole. Appropriately enough, the final day proved to be the most productive with the fifteen fish limit reached just a little after 9:30 A. M. Numerous fish were again caught and released as the day wound to a close. (See photo)



The total number of fish caught would have been even greater if a member of the group, who shall remain anonymous, had not spent over thirty minutes trying to set the hook on quite a few fish only to finally discover that he no longer had a hook on his once highly productive Dolly Llama.

While the trip resulted in freezers being stocked with Coho salmon, the many memories made will long outlast the tasty fish. A return trip is almost certain to follow.

Fishing Reports

Submitted by Charlie and Kathy Breithaupt, 7/9/21

More than Fishing!

As we started planning a summer trip, probably “out west”, we looked for things to do along with fishing. We heard about CFD...Cheyenne Frontier Days...a huge event in Cheyenne (as you might guess) so we decided to do a little fishing close by. The Snowy Range (Medicine Bow National Forest) is located in SE Wyoming with Saratoga being the largest town around and only about an hour or so west of Cheyenne.

We took three days to drive out and really enjoyed driving some backroads and camping along the way. We stayed at Lazy Acres Campground in Riverside, WY, a place familiar to many Rabunites. From there we fished some small streams, usually close to the road, and enjoyed the unbelievable scenery in the Snowy Range. There were lots of people everywhere but, fortunately, not in the streams. We were able to catch enough brook trout to keep it interesting. We did a half-day float trip on the North Platte and, though the scenery was better than the catching, we enjoyed ourselves very much.

One day as I walked through some thick mud the sole of one of my wading boots was pulled off! Then the other boot began to fall apart. I proudly announced to Kathy that I had brought an extra pair of boots. I put them on, took about five steps and the soles fell right off. Dry rot !!! All boots went into the trash and we packed up and headed to Cheyenne. I must add that we did visit the “hobo springs” in Saratoga and ate lunch at the Wolf Hotel, a favorite place of our favorite author C J Box.



I believe everyone in Wyoming was at Frontier Days but it all ran like clockwork. Parades, pancake breakfasts, chuck wagon cooking, Indian dancing and rodeos...it was all there. We camped in a field, without hook-ups, with about 150+ other “cowboy wanna-be’s”, some of whom were occasionally drinking!! All went well and, after a short time, I had picked out my favorite Porta Potty from the hundreds there.

The trip home was uneventful (thank goodness) and, once again, we enjoyed the drive and the camping. We had made a bunch of memories, all good.



Rabun Chapter Membership Update

Current membership: 166 adult members and 1 Stream Explorer.

Welcome New Members!

Robert Moon from Rabun Gap, GA; Tom Lassiter from Dillard, GA; and Laura Seberg from Clayton, GA.

Thanks for Re-Uping!

Jim Nixon, Jim Blalock, Tom West, Tommy Stroud, Pom Sinnock, Dan Cox, Sid Berkstressor, Avril Adams, Phil Upchurch, and Lewis Reeves.

Members That Need to Re-Up!

Larry Peavy, Walter Godfrey, Tony Lima, and Preston Pitts.

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Zug Bug

HOOK: Nymph Hook #12-16

BODY: Peacock Herl Palmer with Silver Tinsel

TAIL: 4-6 Peacock Swords

LEGS: Brown Hackle

WING CASE: Wood Duck Feather

HEAD: Brass Bead



ONE OF MY FAVORITE FLIES TO FISH AS A DROPPER DURING A CADDIS HATCH. WHEN RISES SLOW DOWN DROP THIS IMITATION OF A CASED CADDIS BEHIND A DRY CADDIS. IT HAS DONE THE JOB FOR ME. JUST FOR HISTORY OF THIS FLY WAS INVENTED IN 1930 BY J. CLIFF ZUG.

See you on The River! Terry

September Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
Small Dun Caddis	All month	Mid am to late pm	18 Brown or Grey Elk Hair Caddis 18 Grey Caddis Pupa
Speckled Grey Caddis	Late	Late pm	14-16 Dark Elk Hair Caddis w/ Yellow & Brown 14-16 Dun and Yellow Caddis Pupa
Large October Caddis	Late	Early am and Late pm	8-10 Ginger Elk Hair Caddis 8-10 Ginger Caddis Pupa
Trico Mayfly	Mid to Late	Mid am	20 Parachute Trico
Trico Spinner Fall	Mid to Late	Late pm	20-22 Polywing Black Spinner
Midges	All month	All day	18-22 Griffiths Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa
Terrestrials	All month	All day	Ants, beetles, crickets, inch worms, etc.
None at all	All Month	All day	13 Dredging Nymphs: 12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug,

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

Hi y'all! Welcome back from summer vacation. I hope everyone found some fun during your August recess. I know several Rabunites pointed their wagon trains westward and I look forward to your stories! If you have time, please consider sending Pat some fodder (brief trip reports and/or pics) for his great newsletter. Of course, your honey holes can remain nameless or carry an alias such as West of Hiwassee, IDBIS, or Notellum Creek. Share your joy with the rest of us!

I stuck around here this summer, but had a good time exploring high, local bluelines with my short rod. The little wild bows were great weekly hydrotherapy. I mixed in a few river bass whenever those waters cleared between summer storms.

On the business front, we were very hopeful last spring for a fall Rabunite reemergence. Alas, Delta crashed our summer party and we had to adjust. First, our two partner agencies thought it best to postpone our planned September work project, Double Bit camp on Reed Creek, until next spring. The Board and I supported their proposal.

Second, your leaders and I decided to stay distant, at least in September. Fortunately, that gave us the chance to host a very timely Zoom meeting on Georgia hatchery issues. I know we're all burned out on Zoom, but it does give us the chance to have great program speakers from afar, while being safe ourselves. Tune in if you want the latest GA trout program intel from Anthony, my work associate and personal friend for more than three decades.

We'll have our next Board meeting on 9/28 and will discuss the chapter's next steps. We've erred on the side of caution throughout this prolonged time of challenge, and we're proud to have prioritized the well-being of you, our members.

Your thoughts on future chapter activities are certainly welcome, so feel free to share them with BOD members, Tammy, or me (706-892-7576) at any time, even during our BOD meeting. I'd also welcome your ideas for future chapter program topics.

Let's close with some good news. Our federal friends have worked with Towns County to address the erosion problems at Tallulah River and especially the Charlie's Creek Road. Other road/erosion issues (ex: Popcorn Creek) are on their radar screen. The chapter is ready to help when Ranger Ryan and staff propose their plans and suggest where we can assist. The Hooch forest also, finally, refilled its fish biologist position at Gainesville HQ. Len is coming soon from Indiana and his position should help the forestwide fisheries program. We hope to have him meet our Rabunite gang as soon as he settles in. He already knows about our Copter stocking cooperative.

That's the latest news from just south of Helen. Fall now brings us some cooler weather and hopefully more smiles as we hop back into cold local trout waters. Thanks for your endless patience and for being a Rabunite!

Prez Jeff