



TIGHT LINES

December 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 Rabun Chapter meetings or activities for the month of December, 2021.

See page 2 for important information regarding the 2022 Rabun Rendezvous.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





RABUN RENDEZVOUS - 2022

2021, as was 2020, remained an uncertain year. The COVID-19 virus continued to impact our daily lives. The RABUN Chapter of Trout Unlimited felt the effects as we did not hold our annual RABUN RENDEZVOUS in January of 2021. Concern over the virus and potential issues with the health and safety of our attendees warranted the cancellation of the event.

FELLOWSHIP AND FUNDRAISING!

These two words sum up the RABUN RENDEZVOUS.

With these two words in mind, we have decided to not hold the RABUN RENDEZVOUS in January, 2022. Concerns over the health and safety of our friends and neighbors, who have graciously supported the RENDEZVOUS, over the years, remained foremost in our minds while making this difficult decision. We are continuing to comply with state and local regulations and that of TU National, pertaining to indoor gatherings.

In 2021 we did not actively pursue fundraising for our chapter. We are making an effort to begin returning to a sense of normalcy and will be working on fundraising events, and other chapter activities, in 2022. To that end, we are using suggestions and guidelines from TU National on fundraising activities in these trying times and have benchmarked other chapters and organizations across the USA.

ONLINE AUCTION

We will be hosting an online auction in early 2022 to provide fundraising for the RABUN Chapter. To make the auction successful, we need your support in providing donations. We'll not focus as much on Bucket Raffle items this year. We still welcome all donations and items not used in the online auction will be retained and used during future events. We want to focus our online auction activities on, e.g., trips, lodging accommodations, fishing gear, and artwork.

More details will follow as to the actual date and times of the auction, site access information and "How to Bid" directions.

A virtual event will never be a replacement for the fellowship and fundraising we enjoy during the RABUN RENDEZVOUS, but it will allow us to continue to support the key pillars of Trout Unlimited! Thank you for your support.

Ray King
RABUN Rendezvous Chair

2022 Dream Trip Tickets Now On Sale!

The GA TU Council has voted to again conduct the 2022 Dream Trip raffle online. The link below will take you to the site where you can purchase Dream Trip tickets.

[GA Council of TU Dream Trip 2022 | Trout Unlimited \(tulocalevents.org\)](http://tulocalevents.org)

Tickets are \$10.00 each. Only 2,000 tickets will be sold. There will be a small online fee added to each purchase. The winners will be announced at the Council meeting on Saturday, March 18, 2022.

Thanks again to Laine and John McGarity for their generosity in providing us with this opportunity!!!!

DREAM TRIP - FLY FISHING FOR TWO!



GRAND PRIZE

John McGarity - owner and host of the 2022 Dream Trip

"The 2022 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."

-Jimmy Harris, owner, Unicoi Outfitters

- **5 days hosted fishing / 6 nights lodging in Idaho JULY 24-29, 2022**
- **\$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 winnings.
- TFO- Blue Ribbon - 4 wt. 8'9", 4 piece fly rod (perfect trout rod). Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School
 - BVK SD I (4-5 wt.) reel. Donated by the Atlanta Fly Fishing School
 - Twin fly rod case for two 4 piece 9 ft fly rods. 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
 - 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 2022 year.
 - Witching Hour (4 hour) Trip for Bass on Lanier or Carp on the Chattahoochee in the summer. Donated by Henry Coven. Trip must be used from end May thru Sept. 2022.
 - Unguided half day fishing at Nacoochee Bend for two anglers. 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 \$350. Donated by Chris Scalley "River Through Atlanta" www.rivertroughatlanta.com
 - Gift card in the amount of \$500 for goods and services with Unicoi Outfitters in Helen or Clarkesville Georgia. Donated by the Cohutta Chapter.
 - Half day guided trip for two on the Chattooga or Chauga River. Donated by Karl and Karen Ekberg owners of the Chattooga River fly Shop in Mountain Rest, SC. www.ChattoogaRiverFlyShop.com
 - Two draws of Six Dozen Trout Flies each. Donated by the 12 TU Chapters in Georgia.



Jimmy Harris owner of Unicoi Outfitters



Mack Martin working Ralph's new custom made rod for the trip.



2021 winner - Ralph Anglere



For complete rules and details visit www.georgiatu.org

A Plan to Re-Open the Rabun Chapter!

Many people have been asking when the Rabun Chapter will resume in-person meetings and activities. During last month's Board of Directors meeting the following Plan was approved to phase in these meetings and activities.

Rabun TU Phased In Meeting Proposal:

Purpose: Provide guidelines for return to Rabun TU meetings and events. Emphasis on a) following state, TU national, and facility Covid guidelines and b) personal responsibility and decision-making.

All meetings will have the following requirements:

1. Each participant will be responsible for checking current Covid numbers and local transmission status to determine their personal risk and make their individual decision regarding event participation.
2. All participants will fill out contact tracing forms. Liability forms will be completed for each event. These forms will be filed and kept by the vice-president.
3. The designated event leader will be responsible for providing hand sanitizer, masks, liability and contact tracing forms, clean pens and basket for used pens, and any necessary cleaning supplies. The chapter will pay for those supplies.
4. Event leaders will follow host facility guidelines, state and TU national guidelines. Unvaccinated participants will be asked to wear a mask.
5. Event leaders will clean equipment and furniture used, as appropriate at the end of the chapter event.

Phase I: Starting December 1, 2021

Small group meetings and individual participation in larger groups will be allowed with the restriction/guidelines in this document. Consultation before the event with either the chapter President or Vice-presidents is recommended.

1. Chapter Small Group: (Max=6) of members can meet indoors or outdoors (example: conservation team meeting at Burrell's Ford) It is recommended that members should mask at indoor meetings.
2. Chapter Large Groups: No in-person Rabun chapter gatherings such as monthly meetings at this time.
3. Meetings by Other Entities: Individuals may participate in other group meeting sponsored by other entities, on behalf of Rabun TU (example: Conservation Chair attends State Council Meeting per that Rabun Chapter member's risk assessment and personal decision)

Phase II: Starting February 1, 2022

1. Chapter Small Group Meetings: Continue as above.
2. Chapter Large group meetings: Return to regular in-person monthly meetings. Will try to meet outdoors if possible, but will plan to return to indoor meetings.
3. Chapter Events: Will plan to resume Fly Fishing 101, Scout Picnic, Women's' Flyfishing Event, Picnic at Burrell's Ford, Family Picnic at Mud Creek, conservation projects, TU campouts.
4. Meetings by Others: Continue as above.

Rabun TU BOD will monitor changes in State and National TU guidelines and will modify these Chapter guidelines as appropriate.

We Need You to Help Combat Whirling Disease and IHNV in our North Georgia Trout Streams!!

Wash your boots and waders after each use. Use soapy water with 10% bleach applied to boots with a brush and then let dry in the sun is the best defense. Clean your waders with the soapy water and dry them as well. Whenever possible, swap your gear with a spare. (Sounds like we need to go to Reeves for an extra set of boots and waders for Christmas!)



Tammy Hopton
Vice Prez

A Free Fly Fishing Starter Kit is Available for a Well-Deserved Youth!

Just wanted to let the Chapter know that TU National sent a free fly fishing starter kit to be given to a kid that the Chapter believes upholds the goals and conservation of our cold water fisheries! If the anyone knows of any kid that fits the bill please let me or a Chapter Board member know... if no one knows of a kid that fits the bill I can reach out to our local Boy or Girl Scout troops as well!

Trey McFalls
Chapter BOD



To Help Support the Oconee River Chapter Fund Raising

The Oconee River Chapter's online auction is currently live and they have a ton of great items. Here's the link to the auction site:

<https://go.tulocalevents.org/orctu2021>

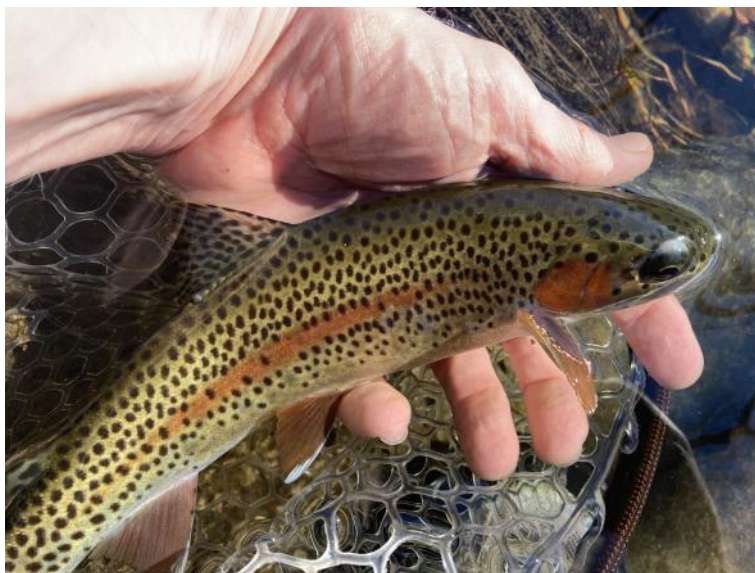
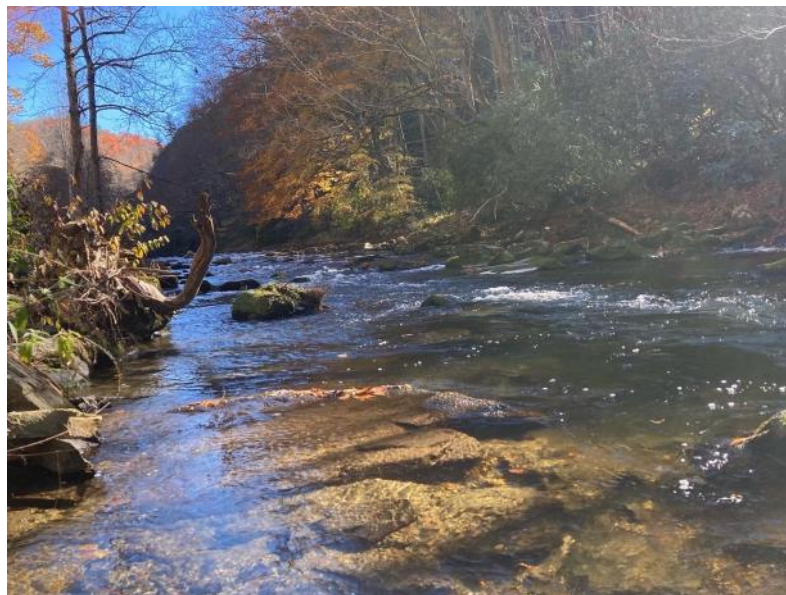
They are also having their annual fund raising banquet next Saturday, Dec.11th, in Athens. They will have a bunch of additional items that will be auction at the banquet. Here's the link where folks can purchase tickets:

https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/Oconee-River-Chapter-Banquet-56339?_ga=2.179617383.2110903166.1638548571-461774256.1637682959

Fishing Report

By Jeff Durniak, Dec 5

No report, just pictures from the Nantahala River, Delayed Harvest section. Enjoy!



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)

Rabun Chapter Membership Update

Current membership: 169 adult members and 1 Stream Explorer.

Welcome New Members!

No new members in November.

Thanks for Re-Uping!

Clay Hudgins, John Hoppes, Larry Walker, Ron Michaels, and Chris Silver.

Members That Need to Re-Up!

Jeff Durniak, Terry Seehorn, Charlie Breithaupt, Scott James, and Brian Weeks.

The indications which tell your dry-fly angler when to strike are clear and unmistakable, but those which bid a wet-fly man raise his rod-point and draw in the steel are frequently so subtle, so evanescent and impalpable to the senses, that, when the bending rod assures him that he has divined aright, he feels an ecstasy as though he had performed a miracle each time.

G.E.M. Skues

Minor Tactics of the Chalkstream (1910)

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Pat's Rubber Legs

HOOK: #12x Nymph Hook

THREAD: Match Chennile Color

LEG: Medium Rubber Leg—Any Color

BODY: Medium Chennile—Any Color



Great attractor fly to use during the Delayed Harvest season! Or a great dropper pattern anytime.

See you on The River! Terry

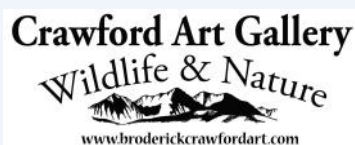
December Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies .</u>
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
Midges	All month	All day	18-22 Griffiths Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa
None at all	All month	All day	Dredging Nymphs:12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, Pheasant Tail

Fly-fishing is solitary, contemplative, misanthropic, scientific in some hands, and laced with conflicting aesthetic considerations. It is not even clear if catching fish is actually the point.

John Gierach
Dances with Trout (1964)

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

We welcome the holiday season with open arms. Despite the challenges of the past year, we're thankful for those true gifts that have sustained us, always: faith, family, friends, and hope. I do hope that all of you are feeling thankful and festive, too. And hopeful for a new year that brings us some great, new opportunities.

With the theme of hopefulness, you'll see some good news. First, a very hard-working VP and our Board have developed an optimistic plan for some Rabunite reopenings. It follows state and TU-National guidance and hopefully responds to the questions and ideas that we've heard from all of you. It focuses participation in our future activities on your individual responsibility and decision-making. That way, you can decide whether to partake in activities or not, based on your own personal situations. It's also optimistic about our future and gives us hope to return to some of our great events and gatherings. And we can adjust as needed to respond to changing circumstances, speeding up or slowing down our plans as suggested by health data, state and TU-National directives. My thanks to Tammy, Kent, and the rest of our Board members for wrassling with this topic for nearly two years. Let's all hope the new year is a real good'un, together once again!

And a profitable one, too! Ray has come up with a great plan for a February online auction that will hopefully recharge our Rabun TU coffers for the new (fiscal) year that starts in April. Since it's the holidays and we need some auction loot to offer, we are giving you the month off of organized chapter activities to celebrate with family and friends. And to find Ray some loot! Aim for the bigger items that may auction well. Let's all save our smaller donations for the next in-person Rendezvous, where we can have an epic bucket raffle! Please, please find a nice auction item and contact Ray about your catch. Our savings account needs a shot in the arm for the next year of restored events, gatherings, and chapter conservation and youth education funding. Good luck, Rabun elves!

Lastly, this warm weather has given us a chance for some spring-like fishing opportunities. I hope you've had the chance to get outside and toss a line. Maybe even a dry fly! The bigger rivers have fished well and allowed rhodo-free backcasts. Soon we will have to dredge deep, but those chilly and sunny afternoons, while adorned in fleece and Goretex, will be great holiday gifts to ourselves. Make a date with the Tooga, Nan, or Luftee this month to enjoy your environs and bolster the hopefulness we'll have for the new year.

Here's wishing you a Merry Christmas and happy holidays. May they be very good to you, your family, and your dear friends. Thank you and may God bless you, dear Rabunite brothers and sisters.

Prez Jeff