



# TIGHT LINES

## January 2022 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!



### January, 2022 Rabun Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, Jan 18 at 7:00 pm

**“Rendezvous Lite” — the 2022 Rabunite Online Auction  
by Ray King, Rendezvous Coordinator**

*Calling all Rabun TU members - this one's important!* Please zoom in with us on Tuesday (1/18) at 7PM to hear the plans for our annual fundraiser. Rendezvous Guru Ray King will give us an overview of our planned online auction this winter and tell you how you can help with this fundraiser. And that's the most important point - how YOU can help with donated loot to make the auction successful. The online auction has worked well for other Chapters and we'll give it a spin this year. Please step up, tune in, and do your part to help Ray and his team pull this auction off and fund our Chapter operations in 2022.

Jeff Durniak is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Rabun TU Monthly Meeting

Time: Jan 18, 2022. Opens 06:30 PM, starts 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

To Join Zoom Meeting **CLICK LINK BELOW**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89431236696?pwd=Yk1TemISVGE2ZUtTamhJM1NSMVc2UT09>

Meeting ID: 894 3123 6696

Passcode: 782847



## **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

**"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](http://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](http://www.ChattoogaRiverFlyShop.com)
  - Two draws of Six Dozen Trout Flies each. Donated by the 12 TU Chapters in Georgia.



For complete rules and details visit [www.georgiatu.org](http://www.georgiatu.org)

## **Fishing Report**

### **By Tammy Hopton, 1/6/22**

For the past 8 years, we have rented one of the cabins at [Smithgall Woods State Park](#) during the New Years holiday. If you've never stayed at one of their cabins, let us tell you what a treat they are. These are NOT your typical State Park cabins (though there is nothing wrong with typical Park cabins!). These cabins are extra nice, very private, and the State Park folks go out of their way to make sure you are well taken care of.

Since it is just the two of us, we rent one of the one-bedroom cabins, with Laurel Cottage being our favorite. In addition to being fully furnished, we especially like the Jacuzzi hot tub out on the deck! Ahhh..... What a treat!

One of the things we really like about Smithgall is that those who rent a cabin have privileges to fishing Dukes Creek upstream of Hwy 75. It is an incredibly pretty section of creek and, as those who fish Dukes Creek know, there are some really big fish there!

It seems that every year something different happens to us while there. This year we experienced something exciting that we hope never happens again.

After fishing Friday and Saturday, the weather forecast for Sunday was for a cold rain with a chance for snow. So we spent Sunday relaxing in the cabin, resting and reading.

It was Sunday night that the weather turned very cold and windy. The rain turned to ice and limbs started falling from the trees. All through the night we could hear limbs breaking and trees falling all around the cabin; neither of us got any sleep. Around 3:00 am the power went out and we were in the dark. I wasn't too worried, we had a wood stove and plenty of food. And around 4:00 am the wind died down somewhat so we both finally fell asleep.

Then around 5:00 am, a huge bang! then a crash that shook the cabin and made us bolt straight up out of bed! It was obvious something big had fallen on the cabin. We stumbled around in the dark and got dressed. We went outside and found that a big white pine tree had fallen onto the roof of the cabin, the top of the tree had broken off and fell across the front of the cabin, and..... **RIGHT ONTO PAT'S BRAND NEW TRUCK!** Oh no!

We went back inside and built the fire up and waited for it to get light enough to see what damage occurred. We found lots of body damage to the DS front quarter panel, the hood, the top of the cab, and both rear view mirrors. Yikes. Pat cut the limbs off the truck just enough to get the truck out from under the tree and into a safe place. The tree was still across the road, it would take heavy equipment to clear it out so we were stuck there.



## Fishing Report, cont.

We were the only ones in the Park cabins, all others had left Sunday morning. With no electricity, no TV, no internet, and no cell coverage we didn't know what else was going on or even if anyone knew we were trapped in there. So around noon we started walking out.

On the walk out we saw lots of trees had fallen across the road going into the cabins. It was a mess. Not far inside the gate we met a crew of Park employees with chainsaws and a tractor clearing the road of trees. They assured us they would have the road cleared that day.

Around 5:00 pm they made it to our cabin. Even though we had the cabin rented for two more days, we decided to head home and see what damage had occurred at our house.

The drive home was long: all the roads going into Helen and past Unicoi State Park were closed due to trees and powerlines down. We had to go south to Cleveland, then over to Clarkesville and up to Clayton.

When we got home, everything was fine! Just a few limbs in the yard and the power had not gone out. Apparently that area of northern White County got hit especially hard with an ice storm and high winds.

We love it there and have already made our reservations for next year. You may think the cabins are a little expensive, but for a once a year treat they are well worth it. Besides, Smithgall Woods State Park has always been a great supporter of the Rabun Chapter and we like to patronize those who support our Chapter. Why don't you try it?



## Fishing Report

By Jeff Durniak, 1/5/22

How many of y'all were able to punch your Rabunite cred card and claim a fishing trip or two over the holidays? I hope there were plenty of you. And if you didn't, the BOD may just have to inspect that card closely, temporarily suspend it, and start calling you a *Flatlander* until you earn back your points.

<https://rabuntu.org/about/educational-programs/for-beginners-a-rabunite-101-primer/how-to-speak-rabunite/>

For those still in good standing, we found three seasons' worth of fishing in the last weeks of the year: fall drought flows, spring floods, and finally some winter chill. And we matched our game to the season. During the warm fall drought, we were dry/dropper-ing. Most fish hit the nymph or wet droppers, but we caught some holiday bonus fish on top when the water exceeded 50 degrees and the midges and blue wing olives danced in the warm afternoon sun. On the few flood flows, we could upsize our tippet and bugs and have better drifts to fish that had to make quicker decisions about lunch: grab it or starve. It's hard to pass up a big, meaty Pat's rubberlegs and an egg trailer. *Legs and eggs!* Lastly, on those icy mornings or icy days, we had to dredge, slow and deep. When the water is closer to forty degrees than fifty, those trout start duct-taping themselves to the bottom. We've got to get down and dirty with them to be successful.

I'm happy to see the rains of this first week of the new year, as our rivers badly needed a recharge. I was doing a circuit of Tooga to Nan to Smokies and darn near gave up on our beloved river because of its low flows. The Toog's long, shallow, sunny, and sandy stretches provided me with a lot of famine fishing until I found deeper water, packed-in fish, and some feasting. Water is good. Let it rain! In contrast, the Nan and Smokies had narrower channels, more boulders, and more fish niches. Success was better there. And the elk-watching is always a bonus!

All of this is now history. Old Man Winter has finally arrived, albeit a month late. Now it's gonna be the dredging game, so bring your nymphs, eggs, and lead (really, tin shot as we're more environmentally friendly these days). Go low and slow in the deeper pools and runs, especially in the afternoon warmth, for your best bets of success. We find that winter's prime time is 11AM to 4PM, and the switch turns off abruptly at 4 or so, even earlier when it's cold and cloudy.

## **Fishing Report, cont.**

Here's one more suggestion: give Euro a try. It's not for everyone, but I'll bet it's for a lot of you Rabunite fish-hogs. My fishing buddy Jimmy doesn't care for it because there's really no flycasting involved. But I like it because it catches fish. You're basically tossing micro-jigs on thin mono and drifting them right along the bottom at fish-eye level. And it can be deadly! Don't be intimidated and give it a try. Just grab your favorite, limber 9-foot rod, put one of those Euronymphing leaders on the end of your fly line, and add 4-6 feet of really thin (5 or 6X) tippet to the end of the leader. That leader end is brightly colored mono called a sighter. It's your strike indicator and jumps on every slight bump. Tie on a tungsten-beaded Euro nymph to the end of the tippet, toss it upstream from you, let it bounce back, and watch that sighter for a big jump. Boom, you're Euronymphing. And you don't need a bunch of fly patterns. Get some #12 tan mops, #12 sexy waltz worms (hares ear with bead), #16 frenchies (silver beaded pheasant tail), and #16 surveyors (tungsten lightning bug) and you're in business.

Euro is a close-in game (10-20 feet) and works best in shallower water (Nan is perfect), so drift your rig through the shallower pools, boulder fields, and runs that are four feet deep or less. Once you get the hang of the close, deep drift and sighter-jumps, you might be surprised at your success, especially on the little wild bows. And you could be thrilled by a 12-15 inch resident brown with a bad attitude.

Then you can start shopping for one of those long (10-11 foot), whippy Euro rods that will make this game even easier and funner. Hint: look at a 3- or 4-weight rod for its multiple uses: dry/dropper, indicator-fishing in deep pools, and even chucking small streamers. When the Montana wind isn't blowing hard on the Madison, my 10-foot, 4-weight is my favorite hopper-dropper rod.

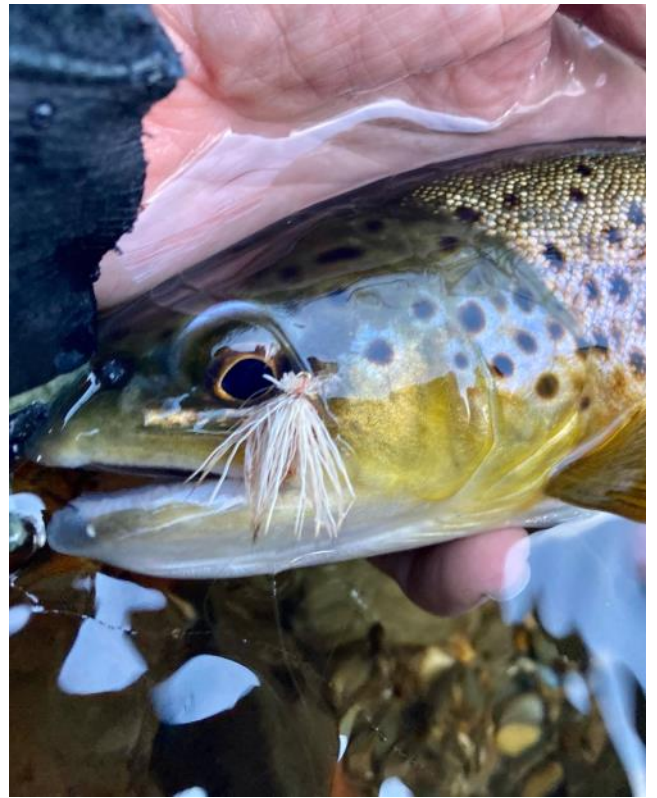
Dress warmly, take a friend for fun and safety, follow the sun, and bump the bottom this season. The Flatlanders are home, warm, and watching TV. And you'll have all that clean, cold air and water to yourself! Give some winter fishing a try and, all you old dawgs, learn this new Euro trick. Try it; you'll like it.

**Wahoo, fish on!!!!**

For a bit more on Euro and bobber fishing, check out my February 2021 Angler Mag column:

<https://coastalanglermag.com/e-magazine/atlanta/>







**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 Membership Update**

Current membership: 162 adult members and 1 Stream Explorer.

***Welcome New Members!***

Robert Stephenson from Lakemont, GA.

***Thanks for Re-Uping!***

Jeff Durniak, Paul and Sandy Strong, Lewis Reeves III, and David Ruth.

***Members That Need to Re-Up!***

Tom Matthews, Sandy Morgan-Brundage, Hugh Thompson, Broderick Crawford, Shane English, Robert Berry, Larry Ekman, Christy Shelton, and Melanie Vickers.

***The Rabun Chapter wishes Lewis Reeves III a speedy recovery! Get well soon, old friend!***

There is no substitute for fishing sense, and if a man doesn't have it, verily, he may cast like an angel and still use his creel largely to transport sandwiches and beer.

*Robert Tarver  
Trout Madness (1960)*

## Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

### Bead Head Copper John

HOOK: # 14/16 NYMPH  
 TAIL: BROWN GOOSE BIOTS  
 BODY: COPPER WIRE  
 THORAX: PEACOCK HERL  
 WINGS: PHEASANT TAIL FIBERS  
 WING CASE: HOLOGRAPHIC TINSEL  
 HEAD: BRASS BEAD.



GREAT FLY DURING WINTER MONTHS. FISH IT DEEP.

*See you on The River! Terry*

### January 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

**It was always the biggest fish I caught that got away.**  
*Eugene Field*

## 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

Happy New Year! Hey, wait a minute, that's flatlander lingo. Let's welcome our new year in proper Rabunite terminology as our founder, friend, and mentor Doug Adams always greeted us:

### **HAPPY NEW FISHING SEASON !!!**

I hope everyone had a healthy and festive holiday break with family and close friends. Did anyone wet a line? If so, then fess up! Pat is always looking (begging?) for newsletter fodder. How about sharing a brief fishing fib and photo to help him spruce-up our fine newsletter even more? C'mon, contribute to our fun, fellowship, and success!

As we welcome our new fishing season, I do have some news to share and an urgent appeal for help from each and every member of Rabun TU. First, recall that the BOD passed a plan for us to gather once again. That was outlined in last month's newsletter. (hint: it pays to read those things!)

What's new? Under Tammy's leadership, the Excom and BOD are finalizing a draft of Calendar Year 2022 chapter events and activities. We are going into this new year with optimism tempered with a dose of realism. Starting in February, we hope to gather, with an emphasis on outside events and activities until the coast clears. Chapter leaders and potential event leaders are getting a crack at the draft as you read this. Hopefully we'll have the event calendar finalized for Pat's February newsletter. As always, we welcome your ideas and feedback. Send your comments to Tammy and me.

Next is the official Presidential Arm-twist. I need fodder from **EACH ONE OF YOU!** Ray is working hard on our online auction plan. He'll brief us on the details in our 1/18 chapter zoom meeting. These online auctions have been very effective for other chapters and should work well for us, too. But it depends on the number and quality of auction prizes in Ray's kitty. If each one of you will toss an item in the pot, then we'll have an outstanding event and collect enough loot to fund our chapter operations for the next year or so. And if you totally strike out on an auction idea, you can always toss a donation check at the chapter.

We are lucky to have about 10-15 worker bees that have kept our chapter going, both before and during these extended virtual times. But this small group can't pull off the auction by ourselves. We truly need your help with collecting prizes. Contribute to auction success simply as a "thanks" to Tammy, Wayne, Pat, and our Board members who have kept the Rabunite ship afloat. Fishing items are good, but we're not exclusive. Think of past Dillard House auction items you've longed to win and go get one or make one yourself: restaurant gift certificates, lodge stays, artwork, custom crafts (ex: knives), etc. The list of likely loot is long.

While we all miss the camaraderie of a traditional Dillard House gathering, this virtual auction is the safe bet right now, for both our Rabunite family and for all of our cherished guests. And the extra dollars from the auction will top off our existing savings from tight budgeting during the last two years. An enhanced kitty will let us fund the fun, fellowship, and conservation that we hope to achieve in '22. Thanks in advance for your treasure hunting efforts in the weeks ahead. Make sure you tune in on Jan 18 and get the auction scoop from Rendezvous Ray himself! And may you all have a *happy new fishing season*.

**Prez Jeff**