



TIGHT LINES

March 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!



March, 2022 Rabun Chapter Meeting

Saturday, March 12, 9:00 am—1 pm.

“Chattooga River Spring Sweep”

Sponsored by the US Forest Service, Andrew Pickens Ranger District

Meet at the Chattooga River Access Parking Lot on the South Carolina side of the Hwy 76 bridge at 9:00 am.

The Forest Service will perform a safety talk and assign locations for groups to travel to pick up trash.

Everyone will meet back at 1:00 pm at the Chattooga Sounds Campground to drop off their trash in a dumpster.

Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- Saturday, March 12. Chattooga River Sweep. Meet at Hwy 76 bridge at 9:00 am. *This will be our March Chapter meeting.* Contact [Steve Perry](#), Chapter Conservation Chairperson, for more information or see page 3.
- Saturday, March 19. GA Council TU Quarterly Meeting. Dream Trip winners will be drawn. Contact [Kathy Breithaupt](#), Council Chairperson, for more information or see page 4.
- Thursday, April 14. Hedden Creek Work Project. Meet at Double Bit Campsite at 9:00 am. *This will be our April Chapter meeting.* Contact [Steve Perry](#), Chapter Conservation Chairperson, for more information or see page 5.
- Saturday, April 30. Rabunite 101. Meet at Clayton Methodist Creative Learning Center at 8:30 am. Contact [Kathy or Charlie Breithaupt](#), Team Leaders, for more information or see page 6.
- Monday, May 2 through Sunday, May 8. Chapter Spring Campout at Oconee State Park. Campsite #91 will be the Gathering Spot. Make your own campsite reservation. Breakfast and suppers will be shared, lunch on your own. Contact [Terry Rivers](#) for more information.
- Saturday, May 7. Mom's Day Out. Meet at picnic shelter #6 in the Day Use Area alongside Smith Creek, in Unicoi State Park. This is a GA DNR-sponsored education program and they are asking for volunteers from the Rabun Chapter to assist. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#), Chapter Vice Prez, for more information or see page 7.
- Tuesday, May 17. Hot Dog Cook-Out and Fishing. Meet at the parking area on GA side of the Burrells Ford Bridge at 5:00 pm. *This will be our May Chapter meeting.*
- Wednesday, July 13. Electroshocking Chattooga River, Spoon Auger section.
- Wednesday, July 20. Electroshocking Chattooga River, Ellicotts Rock section.

Important COVID Safety Information

After careful deliberation, the Board of Directors has decided to resume Chapter meetings and outings provided we follow facility, National TU and State guidelines for the prevention of COVID-19 spread. The current guideline from National TU is to follow State guidelines. The Georgia State guidelines for indoor meetings recommends people be fully vaccinated, that we consider using outdoor rather than indoor meetings, encourage social distancing of 6 feet between people, and provide face masks and hand sanitizer for use.

Most importantly, it is up to the individual to determine their own comfort level as to whether or not to attend in-person meetings and what, if any, safety precautions to take. The Rabun Chapter will not "police" your personal health decisions, the above guidelines are recommendations only. The Rabun Chapter does not take responsibility for the results of your decisions; accordingly you will be asked to sign a liability release form prior to in-person meetings.



SUMTER
National Forest

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
FOR THE ANNUAL CHATTOOGA RIVER
SPRING
SWEEP

All are welcome to join the Andrew Pickens Ranger District on **March 12th** for a trash pick-up event around the Chattooga River, Chauga River, and other locations around the district.

WANT TO JOIN?

Meet at the **Hwy 76 Chattooga River Access Parking Lot at 9am!**

You will be assigned a trash pick-up location and given trash bags/gloves. Everyone will meet back up at Chattooga Sounds Campground at 1pm.



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 \(tulocalevents.org\)](https://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.** Tickets are still available, but hurry to purchase them!

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:

- 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 on Ralph's new custom made rod for the trip.



2021 winner - Ralph Ardelt



For complete rules and details visit www.georgiatu.org

Hedden Creek Work Project

Hello Mr. Steve,

I hope that you are doing well!

Here are the plans for Hedden Creek Workday, Thursday, April 14th, 2022:

Start 9:00 AM and wrap up by 1:00 PM

20 volunteers maximum, 12 minimum

Rehabilitating previously installed habitat stream improvements so that they can continue to be appropriately utilized as trout habitat.

No need to bring equipment – Forest Service and GA DNR will have everything needed.

Bring work gloves, lunch, water.

U.S. Forest Service leads these workdays with support from GA DNR.

Rain date scheduled for: Thursday, April 28th, 2022

Please let me know if there are any further questions or comments from the Rabun TU chapter.

Thank you so much for all that you do!

With gratitude,

Sarah Baker,
GA DNR





FLY-FISHING SEMINAR

www.rabuntu.org

- Ever wanted to try your hand at fly-fishing for trout but never learned the in's and out's of it?
- Ever wonder why some people seem to get so "hooked" on it?

Now's your chance! The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited is planning a half-day fly-fishing seminar for adults (male and female 16 years and older). The seminar will cover equipment, casting, knots and entomology (the bugs we imitate for fish to eat).

Instructors include local experts for a hands-on learning experience that will be helpful and fun.

WHAT: Beginning Fly-Fishing Seminar "Rabunite 101"

WHEN: Saturday - April 30, 2022 8:30 am until 1:00 pm

WHERE: Clayton Methodist Creative Learning Center/ Gym
205 Ministry Mountain Drive, Clayton, GA 30525
(off old hwy 441 behind the radio station)
<http://www.claytonmethodist.com/creative-learning-center/>

HOW MUCH? Cost is only \$25

WANT TO SIGN UP??? FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!
The session is limited to 28 participants.

Send the form below along with your check made payable to:

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Charlie Breithaupt

194 Kitchens Lane

Clayton, GA 30525 knc615@windstream.net (706)782-6954

You will receive notification when you have been registered.

Please Print **(NEATLY!)** Yes, I want to attend the fly-fishing seminar!



Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Mom's Day Out

A Georgia DNR-Sponsored Education Event

Sarah Baker of Georgia DNR is asking for 3 volunteers from Rabun TU to help with Mom's Day Out. This educational event is designed to encourage women to become flyfishers.

The event will be held on Saturday, May 7th from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. We will meet at picnic shelter # 6 in the Day Use Area (on the road to Anna Ruby Falls) of Unicoi State Park.

Here is a tentative schedule for the event:

9:00 AM – Welcome

9:15 AM – Learn how to fish for trout (break up into two large groups)

10:15 AM – Fishing on Smith Creek

11:45 AM – Lunch

12:45 PM – Travel over to Adventure Camp field

1:00 PM – Educational Sessions

How to cast a fly rod

How to prepare a trout for supper

Fish anatomy and art

2:00 PM – Adjourn (*Pass out goody bags & prizes*)

To sign up, please contact [Tammy Hopton](#), Vice Prez, at (706) 982-1315 Thank you!

Calling All Rabunites and Friends of Rabunites!

A long-time Chapter member, supporter, and a dear friend to many, Lewis Reeves III, has recently been diagnosed with lung cancer. Although this is a tough blow to Lewis, his spirits are high as he undergoes chemotherapy treatments. And while we are all confident that an old-stock mountain feller like Lewis can overcome this setback, sending up prayers on his behalf for healing and relief is being requested.

In addition, why don't you send a card of encouragement to Lewis? I'm sure he would appreciate it. Send to:

Lewis Reeves III

16 South Main Street

Clayton, GA 30525



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

Calling All Fly Tiers!

Good morning everyone,

I hope you are doing well! The annual Becca Sue Klein All Kids Fish events aim to inspire the next generation of fly anglers and conservationists through two full-day fly fishing retreats. Youth, ages 10 to 18, will spend the day in the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River learning to assemble and cast a fly rod, tie knots and use fly fishing gear, practice safe fish handling and conservation, and will learn about how a healthy river sustains life.

As part of the event, each kid gets to go home with a fly rod and reel, ensuring that they will have the opportunity to continue to practice fly fishing! The organizers would really like for each participant to go home with a box a flies. I am hoping that we could get a total of 330 flies donated to this event;

We need:

66 Squirmy Wormies

66 Wooly Buggers

66 Eggs or Mop Flies

66 Nymphs

66 Dry Flies

If you are able to donate some flies, Becca would like to list Trout Unlimited as one of the supporters on the All Kids Fish website (<https://chattahoochee.org/allkidsfish/>). If you are able to donate some of the above flies, for the May 14, 2021 event, please email me the type and number of flies.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

With gratitude,

Sarah Baker

Fisheries Biologist

Wildlife Resources Division

(770) 531-4037

Congratulations, Jack Thomson!

Jackson (Jack) Thomson has been selected to be the youth sponsored to the 2022 GA Trout Camp by the Rabun Chapter. Jack is 14 years old and is the son of John Lee Thomson, the GA DNR Hatchery Manager of Burton Fish Hatchery and Trout Stocking Coordinator. Jack loves to trout fish and is very much looking forward to Trout Camp.

Way to go, Jack!

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

March Brown

HOOK: # 12-16 Dry Fly Hook

TAIL: Brown Hackle Fibers

BODY: Brown Goose Biots

THORAX: Brown Rabbit Dubbing

PARACHUTE: Antron or Calf Tail

HACKLE: Brown



Spring is approaching fast! Watch for March Brown mayflies to hatch sporadically during warm, sunny days. Remember: you have to be there to see it!

See you on The River! Terry

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: 159 adult members and 2 youth members.

Welcome New Members!

Jesse Harkins, from Franklin, NC.

Thanks for Re-Uping!

Kyle Burrell, Mike Williams, Ted Poulin, Scott James, Tom Matthews, Mike Addington, Robert Larsen, Broderick and Michele Crawford, Tammy Hopton, and David Crouch.

Soon to Expire Members !

Brooks and Amanda Adams, Robert Blalock, Doug Bryant, Dennis Williams, and Derek Barlow.

March Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
Early Black Stonefly	All month	Late am to Mid pm	18-20 Black Elk Hair Caddis or Griffiths Gnat 16-18 Black Stone Nymph or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Small Dun Caddis (Important)	All month	Late am to Mid pm	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis 18 Hairs Ear Nymph
Cream Caddis (Important)	Late month	Mid day to Late pm	12-14 Cream Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Quill Gordon (Important)	Late month	Late am to Mid pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph
Red Quill aka Hendrickson	Mid-Late month	Mid day to Late pm	14-16 Red Quill or Hendrickson 14-16 Pheasant Tail Nymph
March Brown (Very Important)	Mid-Late month	L am to Mid pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 Dark Hares Ear or Pheasant Tail Nymph
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

Editor's Note

As you can see from the Hatch Chart above, this is the time of year the important hatches start showing up! Waa Hoo!! NOW is the time to prepare. Get your gear together, your fly boxes stocked, and start watching the USGS water gauge at [Burrells Ford](#). When you see the water temperature at 50⁰ F or above and the water level at 200 CFS or below, **DROP EVERYTHING** and go fishing! This begins the time of year we have been waiting all winter for... dry fly season! I'll be there—and I hope to see you on "The River"!

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](#)

Vacant

[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

Welcome to spring break-out! Hopefully, by the time you get Pat's newsletter, you find more warmer days than cold ones on your horizon. So break out that spin or fly rod and go have some fun. Remember our late buddy Doug's monthly hatch charts and you'll be ready for early spring's insect hatches on The River and some of your first fish of the year "on top."

We are breaking out as a chapter, too. Tammy had a big bunch of Rabunites show up for the tour of newly renovated Burton Trout Hatchery. Manager John Lee Thomson, an old friend of our chapter, gave an outstanding tour and was thankful for your TU license plate funds that helped pay for the project. Sounds like all of our folks had fun.

We have several more "break-out" sessions in the works for spring, so pay close attention to the articles and calendar in Tightlines and on our Facebook page. We will take advantage of warmer weather and distancing, and lean toward nice, safe outdoor activities. Consider getting involved, from a little bit of River Love in March (Chattooga River Cleanup) to Stream Structure Rehab at our chapter's birthing site (Double Bit campsite) in April.

There will be more plans in our future, so stay tuned. Also share your own ideas for events and programs with Tammy and me.

Here's to a great spring break-out and happier social times ahead of us. As you poke your own heads out of your groundhog holes, may you also find sunshine, smiles, and some rising trout on your horizon.

Prez Jeff