



TIGHT LINES

October 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!



October, 2022 Rabun Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, October 18

Fellowship Hall of Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church

8397 Wolfork Road, Rabun Gap, GA

Fellowship starts at 6:30 pm, Program starts at 7:00 pm

“Brown Trout of the Chattooga River”

Presented By Pat Hopton

Ever wonder what folks mean when they say they caught an “Old Timey Original” or even a “Walhalla Brown”? Come learn about the different strains of brown trout found in the Chattooga River.

Join us and bring a friend!



Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- Tuesday, Oct 18. **Monthly Chapter Meeting.** “Brown Trout in the Chattooga River” presented by Pat Hopton. Fellowship at 6:30 pm, program at 7:00 pm. Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church.
- Tuesday, Nov 1. **Georgia Delayed Harvest Season** begins.
- Monday, Nov 7 through Sunday, November 13. **Rabun Chapter Fall Campout.** [Oconee State Park](#). Make your own campsite reservations. Meals will be communal at Campsite 93. Contact [Terry Rivers](#) to sign up to cook a meal.
- Tuesday, Nov 15. **Monthly Chapter Meeting.** Program and speaker to be determined. Fellowship at 6:30 pm, program at 7:00 pm. Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church.
- December Date, Time and Place to be Determined. **Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner.**
- Saturday, Feb 18. **2023 Rabun Rendezvous.** Dillard House Conference Center. Pig Pickin’ starts at 4:30 pm, Dinner at 6:30 pm. *Note change of date!*

SAVE THE DATE

Return of the “Rabun Rendezvous”

The Rabun TU Chapter is in the planning stages for the 2023 Rabun Rendezvous. Normally, we hold the Rendezvous in January. Our long-term venue, The Dillard House, is undergoing renovations. Our original January date, due to the Conference Center upgrades, is being rescheduled to February. I apologize for any inconvenience or confusion with this date change.

Rabun Rendezvous

The Dillard House – Conference Center

Date: Saturday, February 18, 2023

Time: 4:30 pm (Social Gathering & Pig-picking) 6:30 pm (Dinner)

I hope you can make the revised date? We’ll have the great meal, silent auction, bucket raffle, special announcements, and most importantly, the chance to see each other again! It will be two years since our last “live” Rabun Rendezvous.

Please continue to watch “Tightlines” for updates on the Rendezvous. More details will follow in upcoming newsletters. Safety of our friends and members will continue to guide us as we move forward.

I hope to see in February for the “Return of the Rabun Rendezvous”!

Ray King

Rabun Rendezvous Coordinator

Rabun Chapter Meeting, September 20

Approximately 15 Chapter members and guests met for the September Chapter meeting.

Kathy Breithaupt gave a great presentation on the many activities the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited is currently undertaking. Kathy serves as Council Chairperson. Her presentation included the Council's support of the Georgia Wildlife Federation, the Camo Coalition, the Dream Trip, the Georgia Trout Camp, and others. The Council supports each of the twelve local Chapters of Trout Unlimited in Georgia, including our own Rabun Chapter. She, along with her husband, Charlie Breithaupt, highlighted many of the awards the Georgia Council has received over the years.

We all came away from the presentation with a sense of pride in the accomplishments of the Georgia Council. Good job, Kathy and Charlie!

Kathy experienced some technical difficulties with her presentation, but it is presented below for your viewing pleasure:

To access the documents for your own purposes just click on the link then go the "Download" arrow beside the "Sign In/Sign Up" choices on the Dropbox site. You do not have to Sign In or Up to Download the documents. You will see the downloaded document at the bottom of your screen. Just open it and "save as" in your own files.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/vmiaxi3xsulsym4sb83v4/GA-TU-overview-Rabun-Presentation-092022.pptx?dl=0&rlkey=miyquativ6czixyqem39zykog>

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/sgudrgwy7q8l9gg5babft/DNR-2022-Special-presentation.pptx?dl=0&rlkey=c592oknq2yfcjqu33mul145my>



Forward Casting

The Rabun Chapter will hold its annual Fall Chapter Campout on Nov 7 -13, 2022 at Oconee State Park, just across the SC line from Rabun County. It's sure to be a great time for fishing and fellowship.

The Georgia Delayed Harvest trout season begins Nov 1 and the Chattooga River should be well-stocked by the time of our campout. Yee Haa!!!

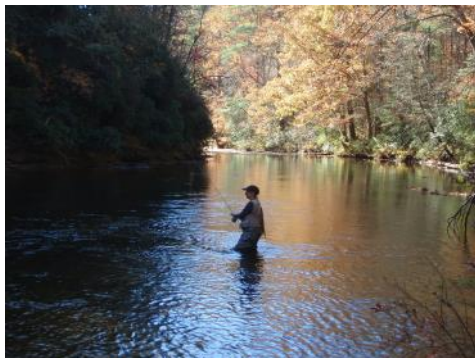
Campsite #93 in the "Wooded Loop" will be the official gathering site. Campsites fill up fast this time of year, so don't delay in making your campsite reservations (see below).

We will cook and eat breakfast and supper together every day and you are on your own for your noon meal. If you volunteer to cook a meal, then all meals are free for you. If you don't cook a meal, then you pay \$5 for each meal you eat to the cook. Now that's a deal! Let Terry Rivers know of the meal you wish to cook, and what meals you plan to eat so the cooks can plan the meals. And hey! - if you don't want to camp, just come by for a meal or sit by the fire!

If you have questions or plan to eat a meal, contact your camp host by email [Terry Rivers](mailto:Terry.Rivers@troutunlimited.org) or at 706-782-7419.

To make campsite reservations, [CLICK HERE](#).

Let's have a big turnout.... see you there!



Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Streams: Open Nov. 1

Are you ready to Go TROUT Fish Georgia? Beautiful weather and fantastic scenery await you in the northern part of the state, and beginning in November, trout fishing on Georgia's delayed harvest trout streams will be in full swing, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

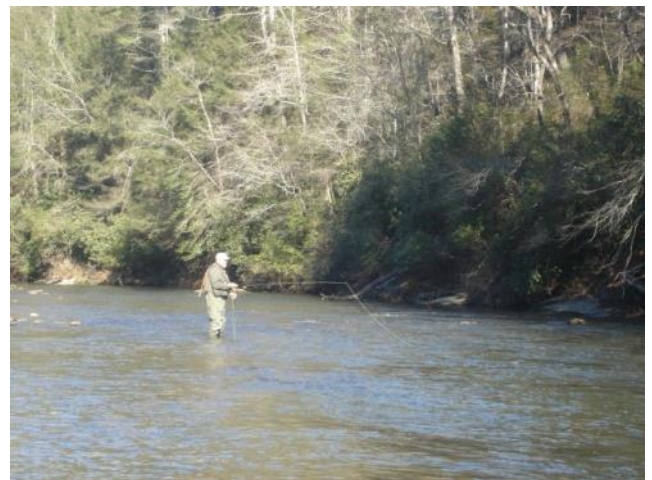
While trout fishing can be found year-round in Georgia, there are five trout streams that are seasonally managed under special regulations called Delayed Harvest (DH) to increase angler success. These streams have catch-and-release regulations from November 1-May 14 and are stocked monthly by WRD and other partner agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and South Carolina DNR. This combination of stocking and catch/release allows for good trout catch rates and high angler satisfaction.

This year, four delayed harvest streams will be stocked with trout. These streams include:

- **Toccoa River** located on U.S. Forest Service land upstream of Lake Blue Ridge in Fannin County (from 0.4 miles above Shallowford Bridge to 450 feet above the Sandy Bottom Canoe Access).
- **Amicalola Creek** on the Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area (from Steele Bridge Road downstream to Georgia Hwy. 53).
- **Smith Creek** downstream of Unicoi Lake (Unicoi State Park).
- A portion of the **Chattooga River** (from Ga. Hwy. 28 upstream to the mouth of Reed Creek) on U.S. Forest Service land bordering South Carolina.

Georgia Trout Stocking Coordinator John Lee Thomson commented, "In an effort to provide excellent opportunities at the other DH sections, and due to current low trout inventories, anglers should note that stocking the delayed harvest section of the Chattahoochee River below the Morgan Falls dam will not be able to take place this year."

Between November 1 - May 14, anglers on all traditional delayed harvest streams are restricted to single hook, artificial lures. Beginning May 15, the general regulations to designated trout waters then apply to those streams.



Trip Reports

Pat and Tammy Hopton—Colorado

This year we had a little different of a Western trip. We had decided to stay home most of the summer and make a really big garden. We spent a lot of time canning and freezing all those vegetables. It was a lot of work, but now we're ready for winter and if we're lucky we'll have enough to last through next summer also.

After making the garden and while we were planning our western trip, we decided this year to spend a little less time fishing and more time visiting with family in Colorado. Tammy has a new baby in the family (Max) and she was very much wanting to meet him.

So we skipped pulling the camper and instead stayed in hotels while visiting family. We then tent camped for several days and did some fishing in the Flat Tops Wilderness Area. It was a beautiful area however the fishing—and catching—was slow, probably due to the 90 degree weather.

While in the Flat Tops, we spent a day in Meeker, CO watching the Sheepdog Trials. What fun! There were teams from all over the world there and it was amazing watching the dogs and their handlers.

We also spent a day exploring the Flat Tops and discovered the lodge and restaurant at Trappers Lake. Best hamburger we've ever had!

We made a long loop through Colorado on our drive home, seeing some amazing scenery along the way. It was a good trip and we were glad to get home.



Trip Reports

Jim Kidd—Fires Creek, NC

Spent a day on Fires Creek. Aptly named: the creek was on fire! Caught some really nice rainbows. I needed that.



October 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
Blue Wing Olive and Blue Quill (IMPORTANT)	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

Statue of Leroy Brown, Famous Fish

When Tom Mann caught Leroy Brown with a strawberry jelly worm in 1973, he knew the fish had spunk. He named him after a then-popular song, "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown." Instead of eating Leroy for supper, Tom moved him into the breeding tank at his bait shop. Then Tom cut a hole in the wall of his office, moved the tank against it, and spent hours watching Leroy.

Leroy wasn't a large fish. He lacked distinctive markings. But Tom could instantly pick him out from every other bass in that 38,000-gallon tank. He was aggressive, Tom would say. He had personality. And as Mann's Bait Company grew into Tom Mann's Fish World, and as Eufaula become known as the **Bass Fishing Capital of the World**, Leroy's stature grew as well.

Leroy lived in that tank for seven years. He was taught to jump through a hoop held over the aquarium. He made the front page of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. By the time he died of old age on August 20, 1980, he was the most famous fish in America.

Over 800 people attended Leroy's funeral. Mourners dropped strawberry jelly worms into Leroy's casket, which was a satin-lined tackle box. The Eufaula High School Band played, "Bad Bad Leroy Brown." His pallbearers were the luminaries of the bass fishing world. Hank Williams Jr. and Jerry Reed sent telegrams of condolences. Alabama's governor declared it an official state day of mourning.

It poured rain on the day of Leroy's funeral, and he was temporarily interred in Tom's walk-in freezer. It proved to be a mistake. That night, a ghoul broke in and stole Leroy's frozen body -- casket and all. A stunned bass-fishing world combed the globe for Leroy Brown.

Three weeks later, an alert baggage handler at the Tulsa, Oklahoma, airport spied a suspicious fish-sized box (with a nasty smell) and notified the authorities. It was Leroy. Sadly, he was too far gone to return home. The locals in Oklahoma threw him away.

Tom Mann never forgot Leroy Brown. He spent \$4,000 to have a life-size marble statue made in Leroy's honor, and displayed it at Tom Mann's Fish World until he himself died in 2005. The statue then vanished into private hands -- but not from Eufaula's memory. On October 13, 2016, it was returned to the public, prominently placed downtown, in the median of Broad St. Its inscription reads:

**MOST BASS
ARE JUST FISH
BUT LEROY BROWN
WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL**



Submitted by Terry Rivers, who visited The Statue of Leroy Brown on his way to Florida

Casting for Recovery

Take a Chance!
Make a donation and get some raffle
tickets to win a Large Big Green Egg!

100% of the proceeds go to support
Casting for Recovery Georgia

Tickets are \$20 each or
6 Tickets for \$100

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/gabge2022>
or on the QR code below



One winning raffle ticket
will be drawn by a
participant at the CfR
Georgia Metastatic Retreat
on
Sunday, November 6!

Winner will receive:
Large Big Green Egg, Nest,
Conveggtor Plate, Bag of
Charcoal + More...



Egg will be available to the winner
for delivery within a 50 mile radius
of the Atlanta, GA area. Other
delivery arrangements may be
available.



Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

www.rabuntu.org

Rabun TU
PO Box 371
Clayton, GA 30525

September 25, 2022

Mr. Ed Hunter
Forest Supervisor
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests
1755 Cleveland Highway
Gainesville, GA 30501

Dear Mr. Hunter,

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited supports the U.S. Forest Service's \$3.844 Million request for funding for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Land and Water Conservation Fund. If funded, this award will be applied to the acquisition of four tracts, totaling +817 acres, in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests. Since 1986, our chapter has been an active partner with your agency on a diversity of CONF initiatives such as Chattooga River management, Forest Plan revision, land exchanges involving trout waters, and trout stream enhancement projects. We have always participated in your LWCF process and have strongly supported your annual proposals of candidate tracts for acquisition. This year is no exception, as three of the four proposed tracts contain coldwater resources of interest to our organization.

The Forest Service's acquisition of these four tracts will reduce forest fragmentation and improve public access and recreational opportunities in the National Forest, in an area with high biological diversity and resiliency to climate change. Conservation ownership and management of these tracts is also critical to protecting water quality and quantity for downstream users.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for this project. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or if I can provide further support for your initiative.

Sincerely,

Jeff Durniak, President

cc: GATU Chair Kathy Breithaupt
Rabun TU VP Tammy Hopton

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Orange Stimulator aka October Caddis



HOOK: #2x Long Nymph

HEAD: Yellow Dubbing with Palmered Grizzly Hackle

TAIL: Deer Hair

BODY: Orange Dubbing and Brown Hackle

WING : Deer Hair

Great fly for the upcoming Delayed Harvest season! Drop a caddis nymph behind this fly and drag the bottom.

See you on The River! Terry

Rabun Chapter Membership Update

Current membership: 167 adult members and 2 youth members.

Welcome New Members!

No new members this month.

Thanks for Re-Uping!

H. Hudgins, Frank and Gail Tolbert, Mike Fuller, Dan Cox, Sid Berkstresser, Dwayne Thompson, Sheila Rickles, Ron Michaels, David French, and Mark Thomason.

Soon to Expire Members !

Thomas West, Larry Walker, Hal Howard, Cecil Greene, Joe Kitchens, Patrick Crawford, Scott Havlak, and David Stowe.

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](#)

[David Ruth](#)

[Kent Wilson](#)

[Ray King](#)

[Jimmy Whiten](#)

[Trey McFalls](#)

[Terry Rivers](#)

[Mike Anderson](#)

Chapter President

Chapter Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Past President

Rendezvous Chair

Director thru 2022

Director thru 2023

Director thru 2024

Director thru 2024

Non-Voting Leaders

[Michele Crawford](#)

[Jerry McFalls](#)

[Pat Hopton](#)

[Steve Perry](#)

Women's Outreach, Memorials

Scouts Liaison

Tight Lines Editor

Conservation Chairperson

Prez Notes

Boy, this cool air feels good, doesn't it? Welcome back to chilly mornings, 75-degree afternoons, trout renewal, and maybe even a streamside campfire or two. Fall runs a very close second to spring in my book of favorite seasons. Spring gets the nod due to more bug hatches and trout risers, but fall is special because it puts a hot summer in my rear-view mirror.

So here's what's going on. First, join me thanking to Kathy for a fine September update on TU- state and national goings-on. Her service to our organization is exceptional and we never want to take for granted the efforts of Kathy and "trophy husband" Charlie to keep TU prospering here in Clayton, across the state, and throughout the nation.

Your great Board has been busy, as always. Treasurer Wayne just made our partner non-profits happy with some nice donation checks to Casting for Recovery, Project Healing Waters, the Smithgall Woods Youth Education Program, and the Georgia Wildlife Federation. "Revenue Ray," Terry R, and the Board are also planning a fall online raffle of a sweet Mack Martin flyfishing outfit, so be on the lookout for details and pass the word to friends. The BOD also sanctioned the February return of our famous Rabun Rendezvous. Details forthcoming. In fact, our November meeting will feature Ray and his Rendezvous plans. He will need a lot of vols, as always, so learn how you can help him pull off another fine party and revenue-raiser. We also sent a nice little chapter gift to our favorite fish biologist, DNR's Sarah Baker, as she and husband Michael expect their first child at the end of the month. The BOD also approved a support letter to the US Forest Service for its FY24 land acquisition proposal. Those LWCF proposals must compete nationally for the pot of gold, and partner support letters boost our forest's ranking. We are glad to do our part. Please know that our BOD meetings have been Zooms, and are always open to members. If any member is interested in attending, just gimme a shout.

Tammy and I have also been populating the chapter Facebook page with more news and fishing fibs, so please check it out and let us know what you think. The FB posts provide timely info that fills in the gaps between Pat's great monthly newsletters. We welcome fodder! Feel free to send us info that you think would be good on that page or in Tightlines.

We have another need! Faithful servant Jimmy Whiten will soon rotate off the BOD. He's also been our chapter membership director and has truly been great in providing sound advice to the BOD, checking our member roster, and welcoming new and prospective Rabunites. THANKS JIMMY! Now we need one of more of you to step up, spell Jimmy, and help us with his roles. The duties aren't hard, and if other chapter members shared the load, we can keep pulling this Rabunite wagon along. So step up! Holler at Tammy or me if you feel like it is YOUR time to give a little time back to the chapter. Hopefully we will have several vols step up and can have an officer election in the near future.

We also have a few members getting past some health challenges. Some are public, while others are private, so I won't mention any names. Just know that each of you dear friends is in our hearts and prayers, and if there is anything that I or fellow Rabunites can do to keep you afloat, don't hesitate to wave your flag. Y'all are the reasons why our chapter ship has sailed straight for four decades and is still fun and productive.

That's the latest news, from Cleveland to Clayton. Thanks to Jimmy and y'all, we've remained at about 170-strong on the roster, despite years of distancing. Hopefully a few new faces can now find the time to help lead us the next few years. They're gonna be a lot funner, for sure! Wishing you tight lines, wood smoke, and wide grins this fall!

Sincerely,

Prez Jeff