

TIGHT LINES

December 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!



Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner

Who: All Chapter members and guests!

When: Monday, Dec 19

Where: The Rock House, located at the Dillard House,

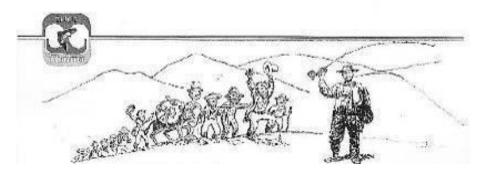
Dillard, GA

Time: 6:00 pm

Cost: \$40 per person

Please RSVP to Tony Allred by 12/16/22





The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited proudly presents A Celebration of Rivers, Streams, Trout, and Trout Fishing!

Please join us for the 36th Annual RABUN RENDEZVOUS

"The Rendezvous was unlike anything before or since, a gathering of uninhibited men down from the mountains. The event attracted perhaps a hundred mountain men, their Indian wives, and assorted visiting tribesmen. Amusements included gambling, drinking, storytelling – continuing day and night." Quote from The Mountain Men, by George Laycock.

WHEN: Saturday, Feb 18, 2023. Please note change of date from previous years.

WHERE: The Dillard House Conference Center, located behind the Dillard House Restaurant in Dillard, GA.

WHO: The more the better! Everyone interested in conserving and protecting our cold-water resources, including their families, friends, and all who love cold streams, trout, and trout fishing.

SOCIAL: **Doors open at 3:00 pm.** Around 4:30 pm folks will start gathering to "pick the pig" and enjoy the rocking chairs on the porch of the Conference Center. There will snack trays of cheese, crackers, veggies with dip, and fruit. Soft drinks and ice will available. There will be a nice fire inside to warm your buns.

The Foxfire Boys will again provide their 'down home' style of bluegrass picking and singing for your enjoyment from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. CD's will be available for purchase.

Raffle and silent auction items will be available for your chance of purchase. We welcome donations of raffle and auction items!

DINNER: Fish, chicken, beef, and pork with all the side dishes and desserts that have made the Dillard House famous will be served at 6:30 pm. It is a serve yourself buffet and you will not leave hungry!

COST: \$45 for adults and \$25 for youth age 15 and younger. Cash, check, VISA or MasterCard are accepted.

LODGING: The Dillard House has set special rates for rooms starting at \$79 (plus tax) for those that make reservation and say they are attending the Trout Unlimited Rabun Rendezvous.

The proceeds from the Rabun Rendezvous provides financial support for the following: GA Council Youth Trout Camp; sponsoring youth to attend Trout Camp; GA Department of Natural Resources Smithgall Woods Conservation Education Program; US Forest Service Kid's Fishing Event at Tallulah River; Fly-Fishing 101 educational event; helicopter stocking program; In-stream habitat improvement; Casting for Recovery; Fly Fishing for Vets; National TU's Youth Education, Embrace-A-Stream, and TU's Southeast Lands program.

Forward Casting - Important Upcoming Dates

Dec 3 (Sat) **GA Council TU Quarterly Meeting** 9:00 am—12:00 pm at FS Office in Gainesville, GA. Contact <u>Kathy Breithaupt</u>.

Dec 19 (Mon) **Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner.** 6:00-8:00 pm. The Rock House at the Dillard House in Dillard, GA Contact <u>Tony Allred</u>.

Jan 17 (Tues) Monthly Chapter Meeting. 6:30 pm at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church in Rabun Gap, GA. Topic: Preparations for the 2023 Rabun Rendezvous. Contact <u>Jeff Durniak</u>.

Jan 24 (Tues) Rabun Chapter Board of Directors Meeting. 6:30 pm by Zoom. Anyone can attend. Contact Jeff Durniak.

No Monthly Chapter Meeting in February.

Feb 18 (Sat) 36th Annual Rabun Rendezvous. 3:00—8:00 pm at the Dillard House Conference Center in Dillard, GA. Contact Ray King.

Feb 28 (Tues) **Rabun Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** 6:30 pm by Zoom. Anyone can attend. Contact Jeff Durniak.

April 26-30 (Wed-Sun) Annual Spring Chapter Campout. Oconee State Park

April 27 (Thur) Stream Conservation Work Project. Heddon Creek.

June 4-9 (Sun-Fri) Trout Camp. See application on Page 6.

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Pat's Rubber Legs

HOOK: #122X NYMPH

THREAD: MATCH CHENILLE

BODY: MEDIUM CHENILLE (YOUR CHOICE)

LEGS: MEDIUM RUBBER LEGS BODY: YOUR CHOICE CHENILLE



GREAT FLY TO USE ON THE DELAYED HARVEST STREAMS.

See you on The River! Terry

"Ours is the grandest sport. It is an intriguing battle of wits between an angler and a trout; and in addition to appreciating the tradition and grace of the game, we play it in the magnificent out-of-doors."

Ernest G. Schwiebert, Jr

DREAM TRIP - FLY FISHING FOR TWO!







"The 2023 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 restauranteur, 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."

- 5 days hosted fishing / 6 nights lodging in Idaho July 23-28, 2023
- \$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:

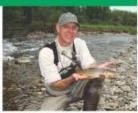
- TFO- Blue Ribbon 4 wt. 8'9", 4 piece fly rod (perfect trout rod). Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- A private fly-casting lesson including digital casting analysis and video analysis (this donation would apply to those having mastered basic casting skills already).
 Donated by the Atlanta Fly Fishing School for 2023 year.
- Witching Hour (4 hour) Trip for Bass on Lanier or Carp on the Chattahoochee in the summer.
 Donated by Henry Cowen. Trip must be used from end of May thru Sept. 2023.
- A half day guided float trip for 2 on the Upper Toccoa River during the delayed harvest season.
 Value \$350. Donated by David & Becky Hulsey "Blue Ridge Fly Fishing School"
- 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.riverthroughatlanta.com
- Renegade 8' 3wt plus Rod and Reel value \$350. Donated by the Renegade Rod Company in Canton, GA.
- Half day trip on Warwoman Creek in Rabun County basic flyfishing skills and introduction techniques gear included. Donated by Shady Creek Expeditions in Clayton, GA.
- Two draws of Six Dozen Trout Flies each. Donated by the 12 TU Chapters in Georgia.











Jimmy Hams owner of Unicol Outfitters



2022 Winner - Peg Jones and her sister Rita.



For complete rules and details visit www.georgiatu.org

Rabun Chapter Fall Campout

Report Submitted by Tammy Hopton, 12/7/22

The Rabun Chapter held its Annual Fall Chapter Campout on Nov 14 -18, 2018 at Oconee State Park, just across the SC line from Rabun County. We had a great time fishing and telling tall tales around the campfire, until the rain from Hurricane Nicole sent us all running for cover.

Interested in joining us on the next campout? The Annual Spring Chapter Campout will be April 26-30 at Oconee State Park. Make your reservations now!











Special Award to Terry Rivers

During the Fall Chapter Campout, Vice Prez Tammy presented Terry Rivers with a special award in recognition for all his hard work in coordinating the Chapter Campouts, including setting up and taking down the shelters and planning the meals. Tammy presents a Thank You card signed by all the campers and a \$20 gift certificate for Burger King. Terry can use the certificate at his daily morning old men coffee klatches at Burger King! Thank you, Terry!





Georgia Trout Camp 2023 Application

Please fill out the application below and give it to your local TU Chapter President.

Dates: June 4-9 (Sunday - Friday) Age: 13 - 15 years Fee: \$700.00

Includes room, board, and all activities for the five-day camp. In May, after your signed application and fee have been received, you will be sent a list of what to bring, as well as the required health and release forms. Please make your check payable to the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited. By submitting this application, the camper, if accepted, is committed to attending camp for the entire session.

Deadline to apply: Set by each Chapter - Check with your local TU Chapter for details. The application and payment must be in the Camp Coordinator's office by April 15th.

Name you wish to be called by				
Address				
City		State	Zip	
Date of Birth (Must be within the ages of 13 – 15 at t	Age at time of camp _ ime of camp)		Male	Female
T-Shirt size (adult size only; circle one) S	M L XL			
I have a friend attending camp and we woul	d like to room together.			
His/her name is				
		ing and h	as reached a	level of maturity
enjoy spending 6 days and 5 nights away	from home at camp.			
enjoy spending 6 days and 5 nights away Parent or guardian's signature	from home at camp. Print: Par	rent or gi	uardian's n	ате
Parent or guardian's signature Home Address	from home at camp. Print: Par	rent or gi	uardian's n	ате
Parent or guardian's signature Home Address City	from home at camp. Print: Par	rent or go	uardian's n Zip	ame
Parent's Email	Print: Par	State	uardian's n Zip	ame
Parent or guardian's signature Home Address City Parent's Email I am sponsored by: (each camper must be s	Parent's Emerger	State	uardian's n Zip	ame
Yes, my child is interested in conservation enjoy spending 6 days and 5 nights away Parent or guardian's signature Home Address City Parent's Email I am sponsored by: (each camper must be something to the president/Chapter or Trout Camp Represent)	Print: Par Parent's Emerger sponsored by one of the 1. Chapter of TU	State	uardian's n Zip	ame

Coordinator

Charlie Breithaupt, GA Trout Camp Coordinator 194 Kitchins Lane Clayton, GA 30525 For more information call: (706) 782-6954 or email: knc615@windstream.net For information on the 12 TU chapters in GA go to www.georgiatu.org

Rabun Chapter Membership Update

Current membership: 166 Adult and 2 Stream Explorers members.

Welcome New Members!

Shirley Gerschefski, from Clayton, GA.

Thanks for Re-Uping!

Jeff Durniak, David Nichols, John Wall, Mike Addington, Jesse Durham, Tony Allred, Joe Kitchens, Monte English, Dennis Williams, and Jeff Houston.

Members That Need to Re-Up!

Terry Seehorn, Scott James, and Brian Weeks.

You are Invited to Join Trout Unlimited!

<u>CLICK HERE</u> 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 Rabun Chapter Membership Chair Mike Fuller.

We look forward to having you in our Chapter!

Click on the Images and Visit the Websites of our Sponsors















RIVER THROUGH ATLANTA



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.

December Hatch Chart							
The Bugs	Time of Month	Time of Day	Suggested Flies .				
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				

Transitional Trouting in Fall Delayed Harvest Streams

Click the link below for great tips on trout fishing through the fall season on Delayed Harvest streams, written by Prez Jeff Durniak, aka The Dredger.

http://rabuntu.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Transitional-Trouting-in-Fall-DH-Streams.pdf

Rabun Chapter Leadership Contacts

Voting Leaders		Non-Voting Leaders			
Jeff Durniak	Chapter President	Michele Crawford	Women's Outreach, Memorials		
Tammy Hopton	Chapter Vice President	Jerry McFalls	Scouts Liaison		
Wayne Prosser	Treasurer	Pat Hopton	Tight Lines Editor		
David Ruth	Secretary	Steve Perry	Conservation Chairperson		
Kent Wilson	Past President				
Ray King	Rendezvous Chair				
Jimmy Whiten	Director thru 2022				
Trey McFalls	Director thru 2023				
Terry Rivers	Director thru 2024				
Mike Anderson	Director thru 2024				

FISHING REPORTS

Two Days Fishing, Two New Friends By Pat Hopton

As part of last year's on-line Rabun Rendezvous auction, the Adams family graciously donated a days fishing for two people on their section of private waters on Dukes Creek. They asked if I would host the high bidder of the trip, and of course, I said yes.

The high bidder was Bob Voelker from Athens, GA. Bob chose to bring Gary Converse, also from Athens, as his guest. Both Bob and Gary are experienced fly fishers and are both members of the Oconee River Chapter Trout Unlimited.

We met at Smithgall Woods and drove into the property. We found the creek to be extremely low and clear. This required stealthy fishing, using long, light tippets and small dark colored nymphs. This private section of Dukes Creek is similar to the public sections in Smithgall Woods; there are big fish there but it is not "easy" catching.

Bob caught the first fish of the day and both ended up catching 8-10 fish by days end. Gary caught the biggest for the day, a 16" rainbow. Considering the stream conditions, I feel we were fortunate to do as well as we did.

Both guys were a lot of fun to be with and I would be happy to fish with either of them any time again. In fact, at the end of the day Gary invited me to fish with him on a private section of the Soquee River that he had access to. Of course I said yes!

Wow! What a day that was. Although the Soquee was also low and clear, it just made spotting the fish easier. And that section of river was full of fish.... big fish. Bob caught several but mostly he guided me, crouching on the creek bank spotting the fish and directing my casting. I lost count of the fish I landed, with the biggest around 22". It was so much fun I ended up taking very few pictures so you'll just have to believe me.

All in all, it was a good experience: two days of good fishing with two new friends. It doesn't get much better than that.

Ps—Gary has a trip to that section of the Soquee River up for bid on the Oconee River online auction.









CONSERVATION PROJECT REPORTS

Chattooga River Trash Pickup By Vice Prez Tammy Hopton

In coordination with our Fall Chapter Campout, the Rabun Chapter conducted a trash pickup conservation project along the Chattooga River. Ten dedicated Rabunites left camp and showed up at the Burrells Ford bridge to brave the rain and pick up trash. THANK YOU to everyone who came and helped!

Our next conservation project will be April 27, 2023. We will continue the work started this year on rehabilitating the existing stream structures and constructing new stream structures on Heddon Creek. This work project will be done in coordination with our Spring Chapter, to be held April 26-30. Plan to be there, we always have a great time and conservation is part of our mission as Trout Unlimited.









Congratulations!

Congrats to a dear friend of our chapter, DNR fisheries biologist Sarah Baker. Sarah and her husband, Michael, welcomed their first child on October 19. Lucy Elizabeth Baker weighed in at 7 pounds, 14 ounces. She's a real keeper!





The Norman Story

Editors Note: In the October, 2022 edition of Tightlines, the story was told of Leroy Brown, the largemouth bass made famous by Tom Mann. Well the Rabunites have our own story, that of Norman, the big brown trout made famous by the late Doug Adams. The story of Norman follows, as told by Brooks Adams, Doug's son.

If you remember the movie "On Golden Pond", you'll surely agree that the side story about the old man, Norman, and his obsession with his rival, an enormous fish he called Walter, was the best part of the plot. Some of the more interesting mini-stories within the tale were about the antics of Norman, angling to catch his self-imposed antagonist with the enlisted aid of an inspired youngster helper.

As it turns out, Rabunite lore has an analogous tale of sorts. One perfect evening, in a special place (Where? ...I don't believe I said...), during a magical time of year (yeah, you know when...), The Old Man was working his way up The River, casting his large, Light Cahill into runs and riffles where he knew the good'uns would be watching for one of their favorite treats. The Green Drake hatch was heavy, and the trout were getting carefree and active, including those big browns.

Hawg, as many old-timer Rabunites knew him, had made his way to the upper end of a nice, long stretch of pools and eddies, with plenty of boulders and woody cover for the big ones to lay around. As he watched his fluffy, bright fly drift down the edge of the current after being skillfully placed to imitate a natural bug depositing its eggs, it suddenly disappeared as it was sucked down by the tip of a nose barely breaching the rippled surface. With a quick jerk, the hook was firmly set, and the battle was on!

Even without seeing what was on the line, it only took a moment to realize just how large this foe was. "WAAAaahWHOooo!" echoed up and down the valley. The rod tip bowed over to point at the partially submerged log on the far side of the stream. This was going to be a tricky play.

With the tension of the line pulling its head back out toward the open water, after a moment, the experienced survivor decided it needed a better escape plan. Flashing its full broad side exposed that it was a BIIIIG brown trout (said in deep, drawn-out voice), but that was just a maneuver to shoot out into the strongest part of the current and run downstream like a torpedo! After all the slack fly line evaporated from the anglers left hand, the whine of the drag achieved a sustained high pitch. It was time to move! Working his way back down the run that he had just come up, his experience told him that the backing was about to start feeding out through the eyelets. He had to turn this fish! There was no option but to pull back!

At that moment, the bend in the rod went straight, and the weight on his right wrist was released. What happened??!? Was it an uncap? Did he break off? Did the hook straighten? Fortunately, it became clear with only one draw of line that none of those were the case. It was hung on something. ...but it was not moving. A little line was released, and it was taken up taunt again. A little more line was released, and it happened again! What was going on?!??

11

Keeping the critical tension in the line, Doug made his way down to where the line was leading him. He could see it wrapping around the downstream side of a large rock emerging from the water out in the middle of the stream. When he arrived in the calm eddy behind the boulder, he was standing in water well up on his thighs, and from the length of leader emerging from the narrow, flooded void in the stone, that wise fish had to be just up under there! It was right there! But it would NOT budge!

Gripping his rod in his right hand, with the line clamped under his index and middle fingers, he reached into the gap under the rock with his left hand. His fingertips felt the smooth, slick underside of a strong, tapering body just as it transitioned into a tail! Instinctively, he tried pinching that flat caudal fin to pull it out from its hiding place. With a simple shake, it was again free. Maybe a grab around the trailing end of the body would work, but that ended with the tail collapsing and his fist sliding right off.

Lowering his upper arm deeper into the water, all the way up to the shoulder, allowed him to slip his left hand under the belly of this meaty, monster brown. Even with his cheek pressed against the rock just above the water line, his fingers could not reach the mouth or gills where there might be a chance at getting a grip that could pull this fish out of its lair. But it was clear that it measured well over 2 feet in length!!

Having arrived at a stalemate, the master angler and the elder trout seemed content to just caress and be caressed. After several minutes of the slight movements from the pressure waves in the water and occasional twitches and tail swishes, with the delicate tippet, held in place by whatever it was snagged on, rubbing on sharp rock edges that the lack of current had never worn away, that Light Cahill was finally surrendered. Even then, neither opponent moved, except for the gentle rubbing and fondling, fingers and open palm on fat, smooth flesh. With a last little tickle, The Old Man withdrew his arm from the sanctuary where the trout had chosen to make its stand.

Many years of fishing trips brought me and Dad by that spot. Not a single time did we pass by that rock, neither in the stream wetting flies nor walking by that spot on the trail, without him pointing at it and saying, "Norman is RIGHT THERE!" We hunted on many occasions, in all times of the year, with all kinds of temptations and techniques to hook into that formidable foe again. But unlike the story where the Norman in "On Golden Pond" eventually caught, and released, Walter, we never did catch the Norman of The River. ...but in a way, The Old Man already had...

And that's the way this story is told, because that's the way I told it.

"When a man's stories are remembered, then he is immortal."

Daniel Wallace, Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions

Prez Notes

Wow, can you believe it's December already? It seems like November flew right by us. I hope that all of you had a chance to take advantage of the good weather and got outside on some hikes, fishing trips, and maybe even a few days of Border River camping with your fearless leader Terry and his merry band of chapter members. Were you able to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends?

We now look forward to the Christmas holiday season. Please be sure to check out the chapter's annual Christmas dinner at Dillard House. The food and fellowship are top-notch. And if you need to start burning off those accumulated calories, we've still had fairly mild weather to support your outdoor exercises. Dr. D sez, go fishing for good health!

https://www.forbes.com/sites/janehanson/2022/10/11/fly-fishing-is-medicine-for-the-mind-and-body-and-may-help-you-land-that-next-big-deal/

As I write this column on the 5th, it's raining steadily. While we may have to work around some dreary days, the rainfall is most welcomed, as our rivers sure need a recharge. Pick a sunny day soon and enjoy the resurrected flows in your favorite trout waters.

Our hot topics for this chilly season are the Rendezvous and the Dream Trip. Ray King led a healthy discussion at our November meeting. Now it's time for each Rabun TU member to contribute to chapter success. It's not too early to create or solicit auction and raffle prizes for our Feb 18 Rabun Rendezvous, our primary fundraiser for the chapter. It's also a great time to contact Ray and volunteer for service before and during that banquet. We have about a 35-year history of Rendezvous success that's primarily due to the efforts of many chapter members. Let's keep that streak going. Find some prizes and raise your hand to volunteer. And remember, many of the most popular prizes are not fishing-related. Homemade cakes, pies, and crafts, restaurant gift cards, lodge stays, and golf rounds have all garnered high bids. Look far and wide and help Ray to offer a prize list that will attract a lot of rich flatlanders north on the 18th!

Continued...

Prez Notes, Cont.

The next topic is the Georgia Council's Dream Trip raffle. The grand prize winner and his/her guest are treated to a week of lodging and guided flyfishing in the Yellowstone region. Athens TU'ers John and Laine McGarity, my personal friends, offer this outstanding gift, while other TU members and supporters contribute to a long list of significant runner-up prizes. Please start promoting the online sales of these raffle tickets and buy some yourselves. Why? Well, by golly, you might just win something really nice. How about that Montana vacation? Second, if you tell the ticket-buyers to credit our chapter (Rabun #522), our clan receives a rebate for each ticket sold. That totaled more than a thousand dollars last year and helped fuel our chapter operations.

So there's our Santa list for this month: get ready for the Rendezvous, push the Dream Trip raffle, celebrate with Tony A at our Christmas dinner, and count your blessings of faith, family, and friends on the special holidays ahead. And remember: if you overdosed on turkey and pecan pie, you can easily burn off those pounds with some vigorous Chattooga wades. How's that for a winning winter recipe? Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all you fine hillbillies, whether you're up here or displaced to the flatlands. Thanks to one and all for being a Rabunite. And to all, A Good Night!

Prez Jeff