

TIGHT LINES

February 2023 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!



No Monthly Chapter Meeting for February!!

Rest up from the Rendezvous!

See you in March!

Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- Saturday, Feb 18. 2023 Rabun Rendezvous. Dillard House Conference Center. Pig Pickin's starts at 4:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm. See page 3 for more information.
- Tuesday, Feb 28. Board of Directors Meeting. Anyone can attend. Contact <u>Jeff Durniak</u> for more information.
- Saturday, March 4. Annual Chapter Budget Meeting. 8:00 am at the Dillard House Restaurant. Breakfast will be provided. Anyone can attend, all Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs are expected to attend. Please RSVP to Jeff Durniak by March 1.
- Thursday, March 18. GA TU Council Meeting and Drawing for Dream Trip. See page 6 for more information on the Dream Trip. Contact <u>Kathy Breithaupt</u> for more information.
- Tuesday, March 21. March Monthly Chapter Meeting. Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Social starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Program: "Preparations for the Stream Conservation Project", presented by David Vinson, Wildlife Biologist for the US Forest Service. Important: a vote will be taken on Chapter officers. See nominations on page 11.
- Saturday, March 25. Stream Clean-Up Project. Warwoman Creek along Earl's Ford Road.
 Meet at Hatch Camp on Joe Speed Road at 8:30 am. Bring gloves. Contact <u>Steve Perry</u> for more information.
- Saturday, March 25. Hoot on the Hooch. Annual fund raising banquet for the GA Foothills Chapter. To be held at Helendorf Inn, Helen, GA. Contact Foothills Chapter President <u>Bruce</u> Johnson for more information.
- Tuesday, March 28. Board of Directors Meeting. Anyone can attend. Contact <u>Jeff Durniak</u> for more information.
- Tuesday, April 18. April Monthly Chapter Meeting. Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Social starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Contact <u>Jeff Durniak</u> or more information.
- Saturday, April 22. Rabunite 101. Meet at Clayton Methodist Creative Learning Center at 8:30 am. Contact Kathy or Charlie Breithaupt or see page 8 for more information.
- Wednesday, April 26—Sunday, April 30. **Rabun Chapter Spring Campout**. Oconee State Park. Contact <u>Terry Rivers</u> for more information.
- Thursday, April 27. Stream Conservation Project. Upper Reed Creek. Contact Steve Perry for more information.
- Sunday, June 4—Friday, June 9. Trout Camp. Tallulah Falls School, Tallulah Falls, GA.
 CLICK HERE for more information. Application can be found on page 10.





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, February 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 chees, crackers, veggies with dip, and fruit. Soft drinks and ice will available. If you want something stronger to drink, BYOB. 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. *Seating is limited, so purchase your tickets in advance by <u>CLICKING HERE</u> or by scanning*



LODGING: The Dillard House has set special rates for rooms starting at \$99 (plus tax) for those that make reservation and say they are attending the Trout Unlimited Rabun Rendezvous. Contact Dillard House Here.

To Friends of the Rabun TU Chapter and Fellow Rabunites:

CALL FOR DONATIONS!

The 2023 Rabun Rendezvous, February 18, 2023, is fast approaching. We need your help in making our annual Rabun Rendezvous a success. Please help by providing donations which we will use to raise funds through the Silent Auction and Bucket Raffle. Fishing items, art work, books, DVDs, trips, gift certificates and baked goods are all items which we can use to generate funds. The funds will continue to support the conservation and education efforts of the Rabun TU Chapter.

We need your donations as soon as possible to advertise for the Rendezvous. This allows us to photograph and advertise the items we receive. You can contact any Rabun TU Chapter Board of Director member and / or send donations directly to the following:

Ray King

121 Creek Road

Otto, North Carolina 28763

IF YOU BRING A DONATION ON THE DAY OF THE RENDEZVOUS, PLEASE BRING YOUR DONA-TION BY 4:00 PM.

Help us make this year's Rabun Rendezvous one of the best ever.

Thank you,

Ray King

Rabun Rendezvous Chair





Rabun Rendezvous

February 18, 2023

@Dillard House Conference Center



Pig Pickin' at 4:30 pm Dinner, music, and silent auction following

\$45 per person \$25 youth under 15

Buy tickets online at rabuntu.org



FLY-FISHING DREAM TRIP 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 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

The Grand Prize Winner and Guest receive: Five days hosted fishing/six nights lodging in Idaho for two/July 23 - 28, 2023; \$500 total in travel expenses.

The Grand Prize Winner and Guest each receive: A float trip on the Madison River, plus choice of Winston AIR2 - 3 wt-6 wt. or Alpha + 5 wt. - 10 wt. Fly reel with Scientific Anglers or Winston Energy Fly Line, a fly box and flies for the trip. (approx. 5-7 dozen per box.)

<u>Proceeds Benefit TU Cold Water Conservation, Georgia Trout Camp,</u> and other Georgia TU Council supported activities.

<u>Tickets are \$10.00</u> *a small credit card service fee will be added.*

Choose your Chapter when you buy your tickets.

If you don't designate a Chapter, you can still buy tickets!

The Georgia Council of TU will still get the credit.

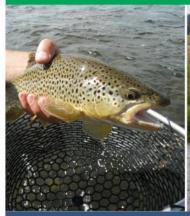
The sale ends March 12th

We are required to pay a raffle site fee of 7.5%.

You may elect to cover this charge as an additional contribution from you.

Thanks in advance if you choose that option!

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

The winnner(s) of this raffle are responsible for any tax due on the value of the winnings.

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.



Unicoi











2022 winner – Peg Jones and her sister Rita



Scan here to purchase your tickets!

For complete rules and details visit www.georgiatu.org



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 22, 2023 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 Kitchins 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!



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Name		A
Address		
City, State Zip		
Telephone		
Email		<i>-</i>



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.

(Please Print) Name				
Name you wish to be called by			_	
Address				
City		State	Zip_	
Date of Birth (Must be within the ages of 13 – 15 at time	Age at time of camp of camp)		Male	_ Female
T-Shirt size (adult size only; circle one) S	M L XL			
I have a friend attending camp and we would like	te to room together.			
His/her name is				
Yes, my child is interested in conservation an enjoy spending 6 days and 5 nights away from Parent or guardian's signature	n home at camp.		ardian's no	
Home Address				
City		State	Zip	
Parent's Email	Parent's Emerger	ncy Phone_		
I am sponsored by: (each camper must be spon	sored by one of the 1	2 TU Chap	oters in GA)	
The	Chapter of TU			
President/Chapter or Trout Camp Representative	e Signature			
After completion – the application and fee wi		he sponsor	ing Chapter	to the Camp

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

Fishing Reports

Submitted by Pat Hopton, neighbor to the Kilby's

Lila Kilby, 7 years old, caught this 6 pound rainbow trout all by herself! Here's her story:

She and her brother, Cass, were fishing with their Papaw, Marty Kilby, in the headwaters of Lake Burton near the Oscar Rock. According to Marty, they could see several schools of trout apparently getting ready to make a spawning run up the Tallulah River. He said they had tried all kinds of different lures, with no luck getting any of the fish to bite.

While Marty was putting a new lure onto Cass's line, Lila put on a big fat nightcrawler with no weight onto her the line. She cast out to the front of a school and the big rainbow took the bait!

"Papaw! PAPAW!! I got a big 'un!" she yelled. Marty ran over and gave her encouragement as she fought and reeled the fish in. When she finally got it up close to the bank Marty jumped in and scooped the fish up! They got it!

While Cass was pleading for Papaw to get his lure on so he could catch a fish, Lila put another worm on and cast out. She hooked another one! She yelled for Cass to come over and she gave her little brother the rod so he could reel the fish in. Another big 'un, just slightly smaller than the first.

They took the fish and had them weighed on certified scales at <u>Kilbys Feed and Seed</u>. The Georgia DNR has recognized Lila's fish as the lake record for the largest rainbow trout caught in Lake Burton. The proud Papaw is having the fish mounted.

And Lila has started a worm bed in her yard.





This, folks, is what we Rabunites call "Passing It On"

Nominations to be Voted On During March Meeting

The Rabun Chapter Board of Directors respectfully submits the following slate of officers to fill upcoming vacancies on the Chapter Leadership roster. Any Chapter member may nominate any other persons to these positions. A vote for these positions will occur at the upcoming March Chapter meeting.

To Serve Through	<u>Name</u>
March, 2026	Tammy Hopton
March, 2026	Trey McFalls
March, 2026	Jeff Durniak
March, 2026	Peter Croes
March, 2026	David Ruth
n/a	Ray King
March, 2024	vacant
March, 2025	Steve Perry
March, 2026	Mike Anderson
March, 2027	Rick O'Hara
	March, 2026 March, 2026 March, 2026 March, 2026 March, 2026 n/a March, 2024 March, 2025 March, 2026

Rabun Chapter Membership Update

Current membership: 161 adult members and 1 youth members.

Welcome New Members!

No new members this month.

Soon to Expire Members!

Brooks Adams, Robert Blalock, and Tammy Hopton.

Thanks for Re-Upping

Perry Thompson, John Hoppes, Jimmy Whiten, Nick McDougald, Sid Berkstressor, Broderick Crawford, and Larry Ekman.

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 Chapter Prez <u>Jeff Durniak</u>.

We look forward to having you in our Chapter!

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

WD 40

HOOK: #14-20 Scud Hook **TAIL:** Wood Duck Fibers

BODY: Grey Thread

THORAX: Grey Dubbing

WING CASE: Wood Duck Flanks

HEAD: Grey Thread or Silver Tungsten Bead



Great fly to use anytime during the winter months as a dropper.

See you on The River! Terry

February Hatch Chart					
The Bugs	Time of Month	Time of Day	Suggested Flies .		
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	Late month	Late am to Mid pm	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis 18 Hairs Ear Nymph		
Quill Gordon	Late month	Late am to Mid pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph		
Blue Wing Olive 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		

Click on the Images and Visit the Websites of our Sponsors





Crawford Art Gallery















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.

Rabun Chapter Leadership Contacts

Voting Leaders

Jeff Durniak
Tammy HoptonChapter President
Chapter Vice President
Treasurer, MemorialsWayne Prosser
David Ruth
Kent WilsonSecretary
Past President
Rendezvous Chair

Vacant Director

Trey McFalls Director thru 2023
Terry Rivers Director thru 2024
Mike Anderson Director thru 2024

Non-Voting Leaders

Michele CrawfordWomen's OutreachJerry McFallsScouts LiaisonPat HoptonTight Lines Editor

Steve Perry Conservation Chairperson

Unless one can enjoy himself fishing with the fly, even when his efforts are unrewarded, he loses much pleasure. More than half the intense enjoyment of fly-fishing is derived from the beautiful surroundings, the satisfaction felt from being in the open air, the new lease of life secured thereby, and the many, many recollections of all one has seen, heard, and done.

Charles F. Orvis

Prez Notes

And we're off and running! The big news is that our Rendezvous is nearly here. The BOD and I would like to thank all Rabunites who have already found prize donors or donated prizes themselves. Ray King's goody list grows daily, and Nanette O'Hara's awesome Facebook marketing is helping us to shop the Rendezvous far and wide. Ray's door is still open, so send more prizes his way, the sooner the better so we can advertise them. (Note: if you're bringing them on 2/18, please deliver prizes to Ray before 4:30 PM so he can record and display them before the crowd arrives). Thanks also to all members who signed Ray's banquet volunteer sheets and will help with tasks like room setup, guest sign-in, auction/raffle administration, and cleanup. He may still need another vol or two, so let Ray know soon if you can help him on 2/18.

This is very important: if you're coming, please grab your tickets online beforehand. Why? Ray must give Dillard House his best guestimate of attendees a week before the event. That number is what we are committed to paying Dillard House (since they must buy all that food and set up the banquet hall). Because it's been several years since our last banquet, attendance estimation will be much harder this year. If we overestimate attendance, we can lose a lot of money. If we underestimate attendance, we can lose a lot of friends, since we may not have the groceries and seating to accommodate everyone. Our solution was the reservation system. As members, please help us by reserving online ASAP and reducing the number of walk-ins as much as possible. We want all attendees to leave the Rendezvous with big smiles, full bellies, slightly lighter wallets, and a deep desire to return next year. Thanks for your help with that goal!

https://rabuntu.org/2022/10/feb-18-rabun-rendezvous/

Next is my thanks for a nice turnout at our January chapter meeting. We had about 20 folks there, with the usual members in attendance and at least half a dozen newcomers! That's great news as we spring into action in 2023. Ray gave a nice update on Rendezvous planning status and we gathered up another armload of prizes for him. Then I presented the concept of our three teams (Conservation, Social, and Outreach) and the programs & projects under each one that our members can consider. We hope to talk more about this in future chapter meetings and encourage each of you to find your volunteer niche and have fun helping out, from stream structures to campouts and cookouts to outreach events like Rabunite 101 and the scouts picnic.

In fact, all Rendezvous survivors can look forward to our March program. Conservation Team leader Steve Perry has lined up US Forest Service biologist David Vinson, who will brief us on the plans for our April work project on Reed Creek and update us on other agency efforts affecting area trout streams. Please attend; you'll be glad you did! And hopefully you will help Steve update his roster of Conservation Team volunteers.

Cont. next page

In subsequent monthly meetings, I hope we can dive into the Social and Outreach teams, find some good leaders, and sway more of y'all to play a role in them. It can be a very fun and productive new year as more members engage in activities that are near and dear to your hearts.

Next, I want to thank our fine chapter leadership team (Excom and BOD) for their years of service to all of us chapter members. Equally important, several members have now volunteered to be nominated for new leadership positions as our fresh fiscal year starts on April 1. I would also like to encourage all of you to consider volunteering to be nominated for an Excom or Board position, as well. I may still be hunting for another board nominee or two, so help us out and toss your hat in the ring (call or text me at 706-892-6576). We'll have more info in Pat's newsletters and an election this spring. These positions aren't hard, but they're vital to our chapter's continuing survival and success. Please consider stepping up and helping out. It's fun and rewarding!

Last, here's a quick reminder to plug the Dream Trip's online ticket sales. Once we get past the Rendezvous, we'll need all of you members to advertise those online sales to family and friends. Our Rabun Chapter (#522) gets a \$3 rebate from the GATU state council for every ticket sold that says a Rabunite encouraged its purchase. Help us to build up our chapter checking account and fuel all the TU good deeds ahead of us. The Dream Trip info and sales are here:

https://georgiatu.org/

That's the latest from my cozy camp chair. I hope y'all are doing well, too. Do you realize that it's time to dust off your fishing equipment and refill your fly boxes? Before you know it, spring will be here again. And that fact makes for some mighty happy Rabunites. Thanks for your friendship and commitment to our chapter's mission. I hope to reunite with many of you in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

Prez Jeff