



TIGHT LINES

March 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!



March, 2023 Rabun Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, March 21

Fellowship Hall of Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church

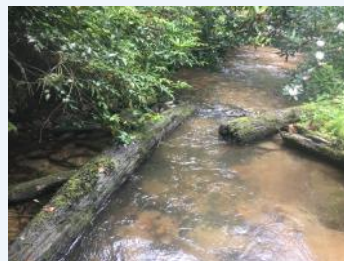
8397 Wolffork Road, Rabun Gap, GA

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

"Preparations for the Reed Creek Project"

Presented By David Vinson, Wildlife Biologist USFS

David will speak about the upcoming Upper Reed Creek stream conservation project, to be held Thursday, April 27. It is important that the Chapter provide as many volunteers as possible that day in order to keep our good standing with the Forest Service and to be able keep doing stream conservation projects. Come to the March Chapter meeting to learn more.



Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- **Thursday, March 18. GA TU Council Meeting and Drawing for Dream Trip.** See page 8 for more information on the Dream Trip. Contact [Kathy Breithaupt](#) 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 Reed Creek 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 13.
- **Saturday, March 25. Stream Clean-Up Project.** Hosted by the Rabun Chapter Trot Unlimited. We will pick up trash on Warwoman Creek along the Earl’s Ford Road. Meet at Hatch Camp on Joe Speed Road at 8:30 am. Bring gloves. Contact [Steve Perry](#) for more information or see page 6.
- **Saturday, March 25. Hoot on the Hooch.** Annual fund raising banquet for the GA Foothills Chapter. To be held 5:30 pm at the Helendorf Inn, Helen, GA. See page 7 for more information.
- **Tuesday, March 28. Board of Directors Meeting.** Anyone can attend. Contact [Jeff Durniak](#) 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 [Jeff Durniak](#) 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 10 for more information.
- **Wednesday, April 26—Sunday, April 30. Rabun Chapter Spring Campout.** Oconee State Park. Contact [Terry Rivers](#) for more information or see page 11.
- **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.

“What a tourist terms a plague of insects, the fly fisher calls a great hatch.”

Patrick F. McManus

Scenes from the 36th Annual Rabun Rendezvous

Saturday, February 18, 2023



Preliminary Results from the 36th Annual Rabun Rendezvous

Attendance: 175 adults and 4 youth

Net Receipts: \$7,500.00

Way to go, Rabunites! Waaa Hooo!!!

Preliminary Results from the 36th Annual Rabun Rendezvous Presented by Ray King, Rendezvous Director

The Rabun TU Chapter celebrated our 36th Annual “Return of the Rabun Rendezvous” this year! It was great to be back together “LIVE”. Due to planned renovations at the Dillard House we moved to the February 18th date, instead of our usual Saturday following the Martin Luther King Holiday. I know this was different and resulted in a few of our regular attendees not being able to attend.

We tried online ticket sales this year in an effort to help us better plan our attendance. I thank all of those who participated in this online event. There were a few “glitches” experienced in this trial and I apologize for any inconvenience that may have occurred as a result.

We had a beautiful Saturday in the north Georgia mountains at the Dillard House! We enjoyed the weather, ate delicious food, “tapped our toes” to excellent bluegrass music and had great fellowship. The intent, with the “Return of the Rendezvous” was to have a great time. I think that was achieved.

Thanks to the Dillard House for their set-up, great food and excellent service! Special thanks to the FoxFire Boys for providing the great Bluegrass music! It was enjoyed by all in attendance. It was great to see everyone in person following the last several years of reduced/ canceled gatherings. We felt the presence of the missing, but not forgotten members of our TU family in “Around the Bend.”

Since this was the first Rabun Rendezvous held since January, 2020, we celebrated three “Young of the Year” recipients. Recognized by the Georgia Council TU were: Nathan Phillips of North Paulding County High School (Sponsor – Rodney Tumlin), Guy Eroh from 5 Rivers Chapter, University of Georgia (Sponsor Jay Shelton) and Avril Adams, Georgia Tech (Sponsor Pat Hopton, Rabun Chapter TU). To learn more about these three special youths, please read further on the attached link: <https://georgiatu.org/young-of-the-year-award-2023/>,

Thanks to all who were able to attend the “Return of the Rabun Rendezvous”! Those of you who weren’t there, missed a great time and we hope to see you next year. We’re planning on the event returning to its normal date and time in January (more details to follow in 2023). Come be part of our community!

A special thank you is due to all the volunteers from the Rabun TU Chapter who donated their time and resources to make this year’s Rabun Rendezvous a success. They worked tirelessly to solicit great donations from our friends and businesses who support the TU efforts, participated in the event set-up and worked as runners in the Silent Auction and Bucket Raffles and staffed the Registration desk. I cannot thank you enough.

A special thank you is offered to all of the individuals, organizations and businesses who made donations to this year’s Rabun Rendezvous. We offer our thanks for your assistance both in advertising and financial support of the Rendezvous through your generous donations.

Thanks to all who made the 2023 Rabun Rendezvous successful!

2023 Rabun Rendezvous Donor List

The Doug Adams estate; The Adams Family - Eedee Adams; Allison Adams; Brooks, Amanda, Avril and Calder Adams; Jonny Amrine (Amrine Equipment & Rentals, Clayton, GA); Apple Blossom Flower Shoppe (Clayton, GA); Mack Martin (Atlanta Fly Fishing School); Blue Ridge Chapter TU (Carl and Doris Riggs); Kathy and Charlie Breithaupt; The Big Green Egg, Inc. (Atlanta, GA); Black Rock State Park (Mountain City, GA); Brookings Fly Shop (Cashiers or Highlands, NC); Chattooga River Fly Shop (Karl and Karen Ekberg, Mountain Rest, SC); Cloud 9 Salon (Clayton, GA); Michele and Broderick Crawford (Crawford Art Gallery, Clayton, GA); Peter Croes; Polly Dean; John Dillard, Jr., Jo Flores and Natalie Dillard Cross (Dillard House and Staff); Dillard House Stables – Pam Thompson (Dillard, GA); Jeff and Karen Durniak; Bonnie Edmonds; Bill England; Dean English (Whiskey Creek Creations); Estate of Philip Tankersley (Tammy Hopton's Brother); Farmhouse Market Restaurant (Clayton, GA, Vince Scafiti); Fish Tales Fly Shop (Franklin, NC, Ernie King); The FoxFire Boys (Wayne Gipson, Mike Hamilton, Steve McCall, Tom Nixon, Dean English, Filmer Kilby) – Special thanks to Jim Nixon who joined the FoxFire Boys on several numbers; Mike Fuller; Patsy and Ray Gentry; Hatch Camp & Art Farm (Scott Low, Clayton, GA); Highlands Aerial Park (Scaly Mountain, NC); Highland Hiker (Highlands, NC); Holistic Mountain Market (Clayton, GA); Tammy and Pat Hopton; Steve Hudson; Jimmy Jacobs; Ray King; Holly and Derek Maddox; Middle Georgia Chapter TI (Will Mohr, Peg Jones); Jessica Musselwhite; Rick O'Hara; Nanette O'Hara and Carrie Herd; Nanette O'Hara and Georgia Women Fly Fishers; Patrick Mawhinney; Moonrise Distillery (Clayton, GA); Susan and Frank Patton; Ronnie Petitt; Bob Pickens; Rabun TU Chapter; Jeff Houston and Lewis Reeves III (Reeves Outdoors – Clayton, GA); Vaughn Rogers (Reeves Hardware – Dillard, GA); Terry Rivers; R. M. Rose Distillers (Dillard, GA, Joe Godfrey); Susan Russell; The Rusty Bike Café (Clayton, GA); Savannah River Chapter TU; Mike Sobaski; Shady Creek Expeditions (Trey McFalls, Clayton, GA); Sky Valley Country Club (Sky Valley, GA); Smithgall Woods State Park (Will Wagner, GM); Spotted Pig (Clayton, GA); Stonewall Creek Vineyards (Tiger, GA); 12 Spies Vineyard (Rabun Gap, GA); Tiger Mountain Vineyards (Tiger, GA); Rodney Tumlin; Jake Darling and Jimmy Harris (Unicoi Outfitters, Helen, GA); Unicoi Outfitters and Rabun TU; Unicoi State Park & Lodge (Bill Mish, GM); Larry Vigil; Brian Weeks; Tom and Laura West; Mark and Shawn Whitney; Landon Williams;

Thank you, Donors! We appreciate your support of the Rabun TU!

All donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501(c)3 non-profit) are tax deductible.

A Request from Steve Perry

Our first Conservation Team project of this year is the Earls Ford Stream cleanup to the Chattooga on Saturday, MARCH 25th. We will meet at Hatch Camp and Art Farm on Joe Speed Road at 8:30 AM to park cars, separate into teams, and gear up.

In order to be done by around, noon, we will need 3-4 trucks with a driver and 2-3 people per truck to pick up. Our goal is to have a minimum of 12 people so we can get done on time. Since there are only 10 of us on the Conservation Team, need you to bring your friends, neighbors, in-laws and outlaws.

For your protection, please bring heavy gloves and trash pickers if you have them. We will supply heavy duty trash bags.

Our goal is to do the cleanup to the Chattooga.

Please put the date and time on your calendar, and please contact me by phone(828-371-1633) or email me to confirm your attendance.

Thanks
Steve Perry
flygide@gmail.com

A Request from Mike Fuller

A few years ago I started a program called FELLOWSHIP AND FLY FISHING. I would select a stream that I thought the members of our chapter would like to fish. Then we would set a time and place to meet and we all would travel together to the stream to fish. It was a great time to learn new streams, fellowship with friends, and just generally have a good time.

We made trips to many streams in Rabun County, all over Western North Carolina, and even to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. The trips were all day trips, so the travel times were short meaning we could fish for a few hours and travel back home all in one day.

This worked out fine and the Fellowship and Fly-fishing program was a big success. It lasted for about 2 1/2 years and then Covid happened and the program stopped. I would like to resurrect the program., if there is sufficient interest in the Chapter for doing so.

I know that I would like to visit some of the streams that I had fished before, but I'm sure there are others I am unaware of. If you know of some streams that you would like to fly fish, please contact me and we'll put it on the list.

Thanks everyone! I am anxious to hear your ideas.

Mike Fuller
david2053@windstream.net

FOOTHILLS CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

JOIN US AT OUR FUNDRAISER

“HOOT ON THE HOOCH 2023”



FIRST HOOT SINCE 2019!

SATURDAY, MARCH 25th, 2023—DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM

HELENDORF INN—33 MUNICH STRASSE—HELEN, GA—(706) 878-2271

BBQ—BLUEGRASS—BOILED PEANUTS (The 3 B's of the South)

**AUCTIONS & RAFFLES (Silent Auction & Buckets) — \$20 ORVIS RECON
ROD & REEL (With Line) RAFFLE — FISHING ON THE HOOCH**

\$40 ADMISSION

GOOD FRIENDS—GREAT TIME—HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

**WE GIVE A “HOOT”
TAKE A KID FISHING**

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.)

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

Tickets are \$10.00
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!



John McGarity - owner and host of the 2023 Dream Trip

GRAND PRIZE

"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

- **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 winner(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.



Jimmy Harris owner of Unicoi Outfitters



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 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 _____

Rabun Chapter 2023 Spring Campout

When: Wednesday, April 26 through Sunday, April 30.
Please note the change of date from previous Spring Campouts.

Where: [Oconee State Park](#), Mountain Rest, SC

Who: All Chapter members and guests are invited!
Bring a friend!

Details: The Chapter will use Site #91 in the Wooded Loop as the “gathering spot”. Meals will be taken there along with story telling around the campfire at night.



Campers should contact the [Park](#) and make their own campsite reservations. There are a variety of sites available, including sites with full hookups.

We will eat breakfast and supper together at Site #91. Lunch is on your own. We need volunteers to cook suppers and breakfasts beginning Wednesday April 26 through Sunday April 30 (except Friday supper).

If you volunteer to cook a meal then all other meals are free of charge to you. If you do not cook a meal, then you pay the cook \$5.00 for each meal that you eat. What a deal! The Chapter will provide stoves, paper plates, silverware, cups. Even if you don't camp, come by to eat a meal or sit around the campfire!

Friday night will be a communal steak and baked potato supper. Everyone bring your own steak and potato. The Chapter will have the grill and hot charcoal ready for you to grill your own steak!

We need an accurate head count of who will be at the campout and what meals you will eat. This is needed for the cooks to adequately purchase and prepare the meals.

On Thursday, April 27 we will travel to Upper Reed Creek and perform a stream conservation project in support of the US Forest Service and GA Department of Natural Resources.

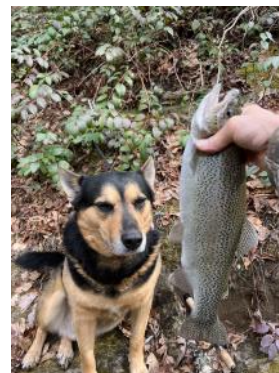
For other activities during the campout you may explore the Park, hike to nearby scenic waterfalls, photograph spring wildflowers, visit nearby Cashiers, NC, or fish the many streams in the Tri-State area. Remember to carry the appropriate State fishing license!

To sign up to cook a meal or to say you are coming, contact the Campout Coordinator [Terry Rivers](#).

Fishing Reports

Lewis Reeves III

On Wednesday took my dog for a walk and quick fishing trip to the Coleman River. Caught this 18" rainbow trout. I think he came up from the Tallulah River, he was caught probably 200 yards upstream from the bridge. I saw him rise but I caught him on a brown Rooster Tail spinner. It was my birthday—can't hardly beat that for a good birthday!



Pat Hopton

I made a quick trip to a catch and release river in North Carolina. It was a cool, cloudy day. I witnessed one of the best Blue Wing Olive hatches that I have ever seen. It lasted about 2 hours, but there was about 30 minutes when it was most awesome. The fish were rising everywhere. I wasn't prepared and didn't have a good fly pattern with me, but I did have a #16 Parachute Adams that I trimmed the hackles and tail. Hooked three, but landed just this one. It was a good day.



Tammy Hopton

Pat and I went to a catch and release river in North Carolina for a day of fishing. The weather was perfect! It was warm and sunny and the water temperature was 50°. We saw lots of bugs hatching off, small grey mayflies and larger brown ones. I caught a big rainbow trout on a nymph; he took the fly as it swung downstream. It took me a long time to land the fish because I was using my 3 weight rod, but the fish was not hurt and it swam off just fine. I then left Pat and went up a small tributary stream. I caught two small rainbows on a Hendrickson dry fly that Pat had tied on for me. As I was working my way up the creek I saw a slightly deeper spot in the water along the far bank. I cast to it not expecting much, but wham! A big fish took it! I saw color on the fish and first thought it was a brook trout but as I fought it I saw it was a big brown trout! I landed it and took this picture. What fun!



Nominations to be Voted On During March Meeting

The Rabun Chapter Board of Directors respectfully submits the following slate of Officers and Directors 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.

<u>Position</u>	<u>To Serve Through</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	March, 2026	Tammy Hopton
Vice President	March, 2026	Trey McFalls
Past President	March, 2026	Jeff Durniak
Treasurer	March, 2026	Peter Croes
Secretary	March, 2026	David Ruth
Rendezvous Chair	March, 2026	Ray King
Director	March, 2024	Kent Wilson
Director	March, 2025	Steve Perry
Director	March, 2026	Mike Anderson
Director	March, 2027	Rick O'Hara

Rabun Chapter Membership Update

Current membership: 161 adult members and 1 youth member.

Welcome New Members!

Charlie Zoellner, from Dillard, GA; Chris Lovelady, from Clayton, GA; and Jared Walker, from Tiger, GA.

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!

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



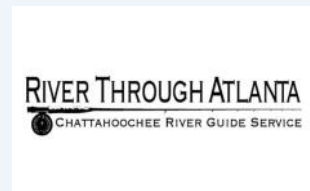
Spring is approaching fast! Watch for March Brown mayflies to hatch sporadically during warm, sunny days. Remember: you have to be there to see it!

See you on The River! Terry

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

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.

Welcome to our newest sponsor, Shady Creek Expeditions! Shady Creek is a locally-owned and operated outdoor guide service in Clayton, GA permitted by the US Forest Service. In addition to guided trips, they also offer a fully stocked retail store with outdoor clothing and equipment. Visit their store at 56 North Main Street Clayton, GA or visit their website at www.shadycreekexpeditions.com.

Rabun Chapter Leadership Contacts

Voting Leaders

[Jeff Durniak](#)

[Tammy Hopton](#)

[Wayne Prosser](#)

[David Ruth](#)

[Kent Wilson](#)

[Ray King](#)

Vacant

[Trey McFalls](#)

[Terry Rivers](#)

[Mike Anderson](#)

Chapter President

Chapter Vice President

Treasurer, Memorials

Secretary

Past President

Rendezvous Chair

Director

Director thru 2023

Director thru 2024

Director thru 2024

Non-Voting Leaders

[Michele Crawford](#)

[Jerry McFalls](#)

[Pat Hopton](#)

[Steve Perry](#)

Women's Outreach

Scouts Liaison

Tight Lines Editor

Conservation Chairperson

Prez Notes

Is it Thanksgiving? Boy, it sure feels like it, since February featured a huge feast and warm tidings among a big bunch of our members. So I'm in a thankful state of mind once again. How about y'all?

First, I'm thankful for "Rendezvous Ray" King and his awesome resurrection of our key-stone event. Please be sure to thank him yourselves. If you knew the time it took for him to set up our online ticket system, negotiate with Dillard House, compile and catalog all raffle and auction prizes, and answer all of our BOD and guest questions, you'd probably treat him to a Dillard House meal yourselves. With about 180 attendees and roughly 7,500 additional dollars in our chapter kitty, I'd say Ray hit a grand-slam homer. Thanks Ray! By the way, Chipper and the Braves want you to call them.

And thanks to all of you Rendezvous helpers and loot gathers, too. Y'all came through, big-time. We had plenty of seats, plenty of food, plenty of prizes, and plenty of laughs. We had great planning, publicity, gift gathering, guest check-in, entertainment, accounting, tributes and presentations (congrats Kathy and three YOY winners, especially our own Avril), and raffle/auction administration. We even made a nice profit, too (our secondary goal) while sending our guests on the road home, happy, at a decent hour. Most importantly, that banquet should set the stage for our future events, which will have even higher attendance and profits.

After we slept off the Rendezvous, Rabunites then responded magnificently to our next call to action - the Georgia Dream Trip raffle. I appreciate everyone advertising that raffle and even buying tickets yourselves. In only a few short weeks, we ran from the back of the pack to competing for the lead in sales with those fine west-slopers, the Blue Ridge Mountain chapter. We tripled the ticket sales attributed to our chapter and helped the Council to reach 116% of their \$20K fundraising goal. Wow, great job! And there's still a bit of time left to plug a more more sales. As of oday (3rd), we're in second place, but we still have a chance to be crowned the winner in sales.

(You can view the ranking by going to the GATU website, clicking on "buy tix." Clicking on "navigate," and clicking on "chapters." No ticket purchase is necessary to view the raffle status.)

<https://georgiatu.org/>

Cont. next page

It will be tough to top February, but we have a great chance in March. First, by the time you read this, we should have already gorged on Dillard House breakfast and refined a draft chapter budget for BOD review and hopeful approval for our new fiscal year, which starts in April. Next, we have an important and informative March meeting. The “important” is electing new chapter leaders. (By the way, I still want more of you to consider leadership positions and helping us to share the load). The “informative” is our USFS biologist buddy, David Vinson, who will discuss our April stream work project and maybe shed some light on other opportunities for us. After that, there is a streamside cleanup day for the chapter, thanks to Tammy, as we beautify the banks along IDBIS Creek. I hope you can participate in many, if not all of these March events.

This should be my last column as Prez. I’d like to sincerely thank each of you for sticking with the chapter and me through a few very strange and unexpected years. But we survived, have now revived, and should soon thrive. If elected as anticipated, Tammy and Trey, along with their sound Board, will do a great job of leading the chapter. The challenge now is for each of us (you and me) to step up and help them. Let’s all do our part to keep the chapter vibrant and productive. Find your own comfortable niche and fill it. You’ll have fun. And with your help, we can indeed thrive in the decade to come.

PS: Look outside. It’s Spring, by golly. Happy new dry fly season. In true Rabunite form, honoring the hallowed legacy of our past, legendary leaders (Adams, Landreth, Kelly, etc) I now make my last presidential decree:

I command all of you to GO FISHING!

Sincerely,

Prez Jeff