



# TIGHT LINES

## April 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!



## April, 2023 Rabun Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, April 18

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

*“Netting Smiles and Hope - an update on the Casting for Recovery program”  
Presented by Lynn Lomas, CFR-GA program coordinator*

Y'all are invited to enjoy CFR-GA program coordinator Lynn Lomas' update on program successes with women breast cancer survivors and plans for future CFR retreats. Rabunites have been strong supporters of CFR-GA for years, supplying funds and volunteer fishing guides for their weekend retreats.

Please come and fill the room for our adopted Rabunite sister, Lynn, as she relates how our partnership has helped “net” plenty of smiles and hope for some true women warriors!



## Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- Friday, April 7. **Fellowship and Flyfishing Trip.** Meet at Hatch Camp and Art Farm on Joe Speed Road at 4:00 pm. Catch and release flyfishing only on private waters of Warwom-an Creek. Contact [Mike Fuller](#) to sign up or 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 Tammy [Hop-ton](#) or see page 1 for 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 5 for more information.
- Tuesday, April 25. **Board of Directors meeting.** Anyone is invited to attend. Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Contact Tammy [Hop-ton](#) 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 7.
- Thursday, April 27. **Stream Conservation Project.** Upper Reed Creek. Contact [Steve Perry](#) or see page 8 for more information.
- Saturday, April 29. **Blue Ridge Trout and Outdoor Festival.** Downtown City Park. 10:00 am—6:00 pm. [CLICK HERE](#) or see page 6 for more information.
- Tuesday, May 16. **Hot Dog Cook-Out and Fishing.** Meet at the parking area on GA side of the Burrells Ford Bridge at 5:00 pm. *This will be our May Chapter meeting.*
- Sunday, June 4—Friday, June 9. **Trout Camp.** Tallulah Falls School, Tallulah Falls, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

“I assert that a man does not go fishing or hunting in order to obtain, or kill, as much game as he can. I assert that he does it in order to achieve a certain relationship between himself and wildness, to match himself against the land and against certain of its creatures, possession of which he has taught himself to desire. It is not merely his skill with rod and gun which he wants to exercise ... there is a more spacious feeling, the feeling of free agency within a large solitude ... the feeling of being alone and unhampered in one’s pursuit, to follow it as one sees fit, by no man’s sufferance.”

*Vance Bourjail*

## We Need Feedback from the 36th Annual Rabun Rendezvous



Rabunites,

Thanks for your support of the 2023 Rendezvous. While it's still fresh on your minds, we'd appreciate your feedback. We'll use that to plan an even more successful event next year.

A. What went right and does not need to change:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

B. What needs improvement?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Please email your response back to (Ray - [rking072074@gmail.com](mailto:rking072074@gmail.com) or Jeff - [jeffdurniak@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffdurniak@yahoo.com)) by April 21.

Thanks in advance for your help, and congratulations on the chapter's recent success!

Ray King  
Rendezvous Coordinator

## Preliminary Results from the 36th Annual Rabun Rendezvous

Attendance: 175 adults and 4 youth

Net Receipts: \$7,500.00



## Conservation Team News

### Steve Perry, Conservation Team Leader

On Saturday, March 25th, which was National Stream Cleanup Day, 16 Rabun TU Chapter volunteers were led by Mason English (Assistant Conservation Team Leader Justin English's son) on a Stream Cleanup Project. Trash and litter pickup was conducted in two locations: along the Earls Ford Road to Warwoman Creek and at the Hwy 28 bridge of the Chattooga River.

We gathered at Hatch Camp and Art Farm (thank you Scott Low) at 8:30 AM, split into two groups to go to both locations consecutively, and were done by 10:30 AM, in plenty of time to go home, shower, take a nap, and get ready to go to Hoot-on-the-Hooch.

We picked up trash stream-side, along the road, in the bushes, and at campsites. Our total collection was twenty 30 gallon full trash bags and one downspout! Many thanks to all our volunteers for our first successful Conservation Team project for 2023.

Our next team project is a Stream Improvement project scheduled for April 27th during our Annual Spring Campout. We will be working at the Reed Creek/Hedden Creek areas constructing new stream structures and improving existing structure structures. Please mark your calendars to volunteer if your schedule permits.

Thanks again to all our volunteers.

Steve  
Conservation Team Leader





# FLY-FISHING SEMINAR

[www.rabuntu.org](http://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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_





Celebrate Trout Fishing in the Trout Capital of Georgia ...

**6th Annual**

# Blue Ridge Trout Festival & Outdoor Adventures!

10 am to 6 pm, April 29, 2023  
Downtown City Park, Blue Ridge, Georgia



(02-15-23)

On April 29, 2023, 10 am to 6 pm, the 6th annual Blue Ridge Trout & Outdoor Adventures Festival – the Official Trout Festival of Georgia – returns to Blue Ridge, Georgia, gathering fishermen, river sports enthusiasts, and outdoor recreation fans and their families in Blue Ridge, Georgia for fun, food, activities, entertainment, shopping and recreational services, while increasing the public's knowledge of trout and the cold-water conservation associated with Trout Unlimited.

Contact us:  
Bob Borgwat, event coordinator  
Phone: 706-838-5259  
Email: [bborgwat@gmail.com](mailto:bborgwat@gmail.com)  
[BlueRidgeTroutFest.com](http://BlueRidgeTroutFest.com)



More than 4,000 visitors are expected to pass through the gates of "Trout Fest 2023." The all-volunteer, fundraising event combines trout fishing and fly-fishing with services that engage mountain biking, hiking, camping, kayaking, paddling and boating ... retail vendors present wildlife art, outfitter gear, guide services/information ... and the return of the **TROUT FEST ACTIVITY ZONE** and staged concerts at the **TROUT FEST SOUND STAGE** top the day in the historic district of Blue Ridge and the Official Trout Capital of Georgia.

31 MILES 2 STATES | STEELBRIDGE  
**SAT APR 29 6-30PM**  
GATCH US AT THE STATELINE!

Net proceeds of Trout Fest support cold-water conservation, education, recreation and community outreach programs funded (in part) by Blue Ridge Mountain Trout Unlimited #696.

The selection of vendors will be greater than ever before for more than 4,000 visitors expected to pass through the festival gates. BE A VENDOR AT TROUT FEST '23 – [GO TO: BLUERIDGETROUTFEST.COM](http://GO TO: BLUERIDGETROUTFEST.COM)



**Trout Fest Activity Zone opens up a world of outdoor fun** for our visitors with a climbing wall, mountain bike demos, a trout-fishing pond, long-saw crosscutting, axe throwing, gem mining and more!

**Trout Fest Program Tents** present expanded programs including mountain biking and kayaking. Professional fishing guides, kayak outfitters, mountain bike pros and more tell our visitors what they need to know for a successful day of outdoor recreation in Fannin County – the Trout Capital of Georgia.

**Atlanta Fly Fishing School** returns with a new, free fly-fishing instruction program – the casting, the bugs, the fish!

**Trout Fest Food Court** features new and returning vendors, and our Beer/Wine Garden will feature brews from Grumpy Old Men Brewing Company and wines from local distributors.



**IN CONCERT! THE KURT THOMAS BAND & SHANNON YORK BAND**



Meet our sponsors online at: [BlueRidgeTroutFest.com](http://BlueRidgeTroutFest.com)



## 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](#).



## Call for Volunteers!

Please come join the Rabun Chapter on Thursday, April 27 for a stream conservation project. We will be working under the supervision of the US Forest Service and GA Department of Natural Resources to construct new stream structures and perform maintenance on existing stream structures in Reed and Heddon Creeks. We will meet at 8:30 am at the “Double Bit” dispersed camping area, located alongside Reed Creek just off the Burrells Ford Road.

Directions to the work project:

- From Clayton, GA take Warwoman Road (next to Ingles) approximately 13 miles to the intersection with GA Hwy 28.
- Turn right onto GA Hwy 28 and go approximately 1.7 to Burrells Ford Road (FS Road 646) on your left.
- Turn left onto Burrells Ford Road. This road is a fairly well-maintained gravel road. Go approximately 5 miles to a woods road on your left. This road will be marked with a TU sign.
- Turn left onto this woods road and go 100 yards to the parking area. This woods road is rough and there is a shallow ford in the road. You may also park on the Burrells Ford Road and walk to the work project along the woods road.

Contact [Steve Perry](#), Conservation Team Leader, if you need more information.





## **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.

Thanks everyone! I am anxious to hear your ideas.

Mike Fuller

[david2053@windstream.net](mailto:david2053@windstream.net)

### **Ode to the Rabunites by "The Professor", a Rabunite**

Each year, when April rolls around,  
A certain group on THE RIVER can be found.  
Working all day with glazed walled eyes  
That eagerly anticipates the evening rise.

Hurrying from work with supper in a sack  
Turning public roads into a racetrack.  
Blasting the flatlanders with all kinds of hell  
Before they have even reached Warwoman Dell.

Getting in front of every fisherman they see,  
Each thinking THIS RIVER belongs to only me.  
Fishing till dark to fill the sack  
Showing no mercy in putting little ones back.

Eating fingerlings and telling lies  
About big browns that stole their flies.  
Screaming and hollering like a troupe of baboons,  
Turning peaceful campsites into outdoor saloons.

Returning home late, without a care.  
Bluegrass music pollutes the night air.  
Reaching home to find all in bed,  
Except for the dog standing in grass over his head.  
Hitting the sack and falling asleep,  
Counting rises instead of sheep.

## Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

### Parachute Adams

HOOK: # 12-18 Dry Fly Hook

TAIL: Brown Hackle Fibers

BODY: Grey Dubbing

PARACHUTE: Antron or Calf Tail

HACKLE: Grizzly / Brown Mix



A great all-around fly to use during the Spring, it imitates many varieties of mayflies. Try attaching a small nymph as a dropper.

*See you on The River! Terry*

## Rabun Chapter Membership Update

Current membership: 161 adult members and 2 youth members.

*Welcome New Members!*

No new members this month.

### 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 [Tammy Hopton](#).

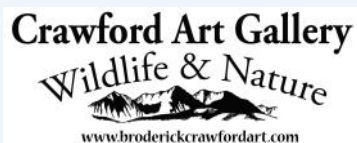
*We look forward to having you in our Chapter!*

## April Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies .</u>
Quill Gordon Mayfly	Early month	Late am to Mid pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12-14 Quill Gordon Nymph
Blue Quill Mayfly	Early month	Late am to Mid pm	16-18 BWO, Blue Quill, or Blue Dun 16-18 Prince or Pheasant Tail
Small Dun Caddis (Important)	All month	Late am to Mid pm	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis 18 Hairs Ear Nymph
Cream Caddis (Very important)	All month	Mid day to Late pm	12-14 Cream Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Hendrickson Mayfly	All month	Late am to mid pm	12-14 Hendrickson or Adams Parachute 12-14 Pheasant Tail Nymph
March Brown (Important)	All month	L am to Mid pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 Dark Hares Ear or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Yellow Sally Stonefly	Late month	Early to late am	14-16 Yellow Stimulator or Yellow Elk Hair Caddis 14-16 Yellow Stonefly Nymph
Light Cahill Mayfly (Important)	Late month	Early to late pm	12-14 Light Cahill 12-14 Light Cahill Nymph
Speckled Gray Caddis	Late month	Mid to late pm	12-14 Dark Elk Hair Caddis or Deer Hair Caddis 12-14 Dun or Yellow/Brown Caddis Pupa
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



*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

<a href="#">Tammy Hopton</a>	Chapter President
<a href="#">Trey McFalls</a>	Chapter Vice President
<a href="#">Peter Croes</a>	Treasurer
<a href="#">David Ruth</a>	Secretary
<a href="#">Jeff Durniak</a>	Past President
<a href="#">Ray King</a>	Rendezvous Chair
<a href="#">Kent Wilson</a>	Director thru 03/24
<a href="#">Steve Perry</a>	Director thru 03/25
<a href="#">Mike Anderson</a>	Director thru 03/26
<a href="#">Rick O'Hara</a>	Director thru 03/27

### Non-Voting Leaders

<a href="#">Michele Crawford</a>	Women's Outreach
<a href="#">Jerry McFalls</a>	Scouts Liaison
<a href="#">Pat Hopton</a>	Tight Lines Editor
<a href="#">Charlie Breithaupt</a>	Memorials

**“Fly fishing is a magic way to recapture the rapture of solitude without the pangs of loneliness. “**

*Robert Traver*

## Prez Notes

As the new president of Rabun Trout Unlimited, let me introduce myself.

I was born and raised in Ellijay Georgia. My parents were small business owners who loved gardening, fishing, camping and ginseng hunting. My brothers and I spent our days exploring the woods, looking for abandoned hermit shacks, harvesting ramps and swimming in creeks. I guess you could say I had an enchanted childhood.

My Dad was an avid fisherman. One of my best memories is trying to keep up with my Dad walking through the woods to reach the upper part of a creek. I would stop to untangle my rod from bushes, look up to find Dad was almost out of sight... so I would run to catch up. He meant business when he fished.

Recently, I learned from my three brothers that they had the same experience.

Both my parents were adventurous and loved a good hunt. I think I inherited those traits. I have been blessed to have found a husband with the same loves. And lucky to have wonderful friends in the Rabun Chapter Trout Unlimited.

April brings changes to our chapter. A big thank you to Jeff! He did an amazing job managing the crazy times of Covid. It's good to know he will be helping us negotiate all the upcoming challenges and changes still to come.

I encourage you to volunteer, join a committee, and go fishing!

Hope you enjoy Spring. It's the best time of year. And please share your photos and stories with us!

Sincerely,  
*Prez Tammy*



*My Dad, Hoover Tankersley, with a big trout. That's me in the background.*