



TIGHT LINES

June 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!



June, 2023 Rabun Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, June 20

Fellowship Hall of Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church

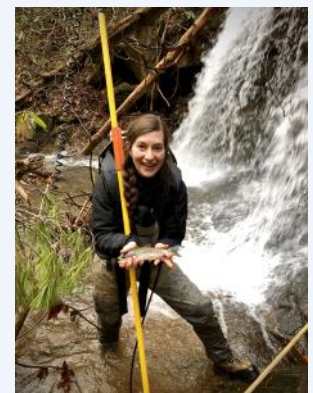
8397 Wolffork Road, Rabun Gap, GA

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

"Brookies, Backcountry, and Baby"

Presented by Sarah Baker, Fisheries Biologist ,
GA Department of Natural Resources

From documenting brookie populations, to hiking some of north Georgia's most remote ridges, to welcoming a daughter to the world, Sarah Baker with DNR Fisheries has had plenty of projects to tackle since she last spoke with Rabun TU.



Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- **Sunday, June 4—Friday, June 9. Trout Camp.** Tallulah Falls School, Tallulah Falls, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, June 10. Tallulah River Kid’s Fishing Event.** Meet at Tallulah River Campground. 9:00 am—12:00pm. Contact Frank Patton to volunteer to help staff the table for TU information. [CLICK HERE](#) or see page 4 for more information.
- **Wednesday, June 14. Chapter Fishing Trip.** Straight Fork in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Meet at the Piggly Wiggly parking lot in Dillard at 6:30 am. See page 4 or contact [Mike Fuller](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, June 17. Georgia Council TU Quarterly Meeting.** Flinchum’s Phoenix, Athens, GA. 8:00 am. Anyone can attend. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Tuesday, June 20. June Monthly Chapter Meeting.** Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Social starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Sarah Baker, GA DNR Fisheries Biologist, will present the program. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Tuesday, June 27. June Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Starts at 7:00 pm. Anyone can attend. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Tuesday, July 11. Rabun Chapter Annual Family Picnic.** Potluck dinner for all Chapter family and friends! The Chapter supplies the fried chicken, tea, ice, paper plates, and utensils; please bring a covered dish and a chair to sit on. Meet at Kellys Water Park at 5:00 pm. The winner of the Mack Martin Rod Raffle will be announced then.
- **Tuesday, July 25. July Rabun Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Starts at 7:00 pm. Anyone can attend. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- There will be no Chapter meeting, BOD meeting, newsletter, or any Chapter activities occurring during the month of August.

“There is certainly something in angling that tends to produce a serenity of the mind.”

Washington Irving

Our Annual Mack Martin Rod Raffle Fundraiser is Now Live!

The winning prize consists of a custom-built Winston AIR Fly Rod - 8' Length, 4-Piece, 3 Weight with cloth rod sleeve and aluminum rod tube. The rod was made for the Rabun TU #522 Chapter by Mack Martin, Atlanta Fly Fishing School. Included with the rod is a TFO BVK SD 1 Large Arbor Reel, Scientific Anglers 20 lb (100 yards) Dacron Yellow Backing and Royal Wulff "Triangle Taper Plus" TTP3F PLUS IV/Willow Green 90 ft. Fly Line (Taper - 36 ft., Running Line 54 ft.

This year, rather than purchasing physical tickets we are doing on-line ticket sales. Sales have now begun and will continue until July 8. The winning ticket will be drawn and announced at the Rabun Chapter Family Picnic on Tuesday, July 11.

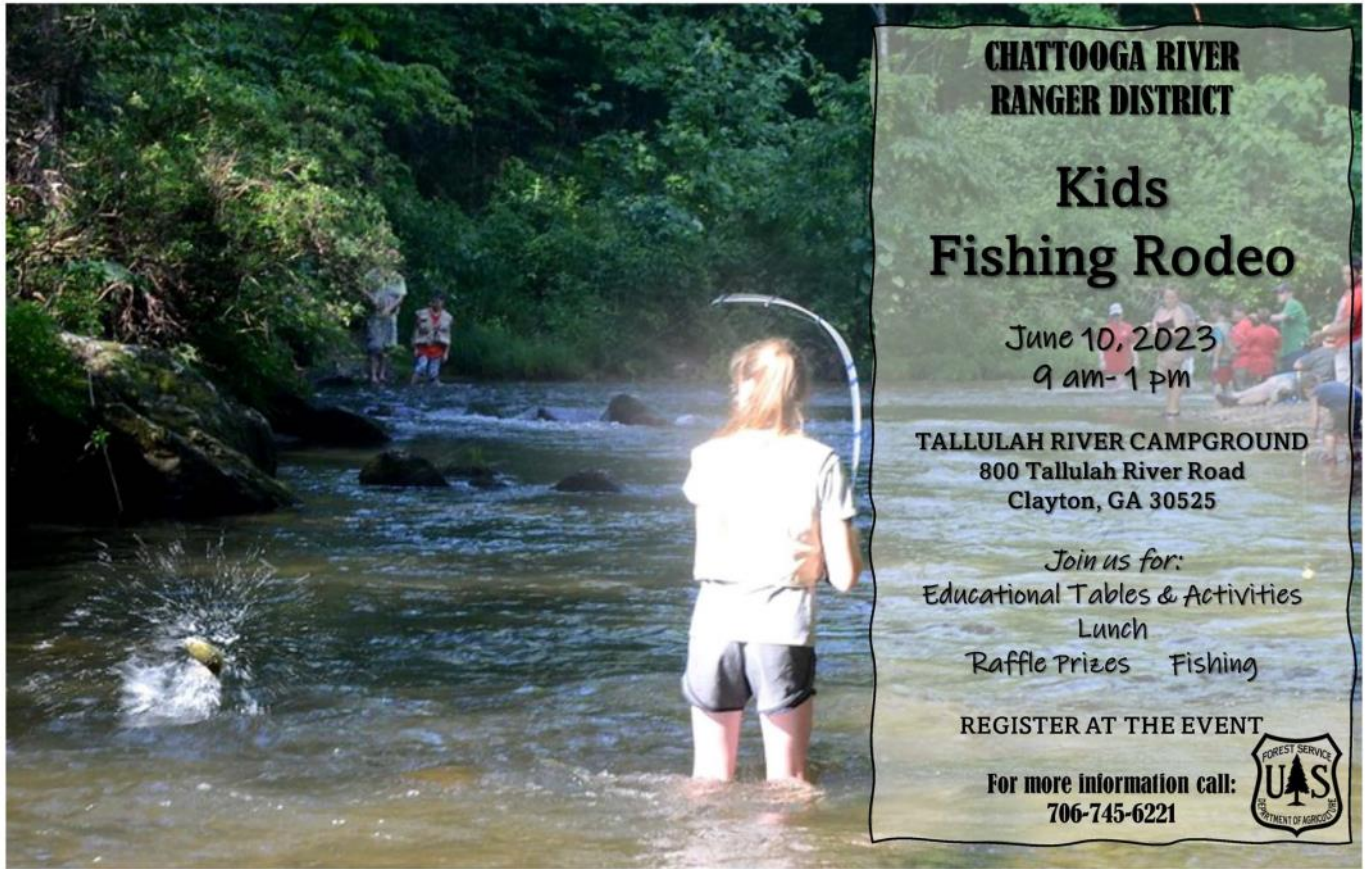
Click the link below for more information and to purchase tickets:

[Rabun TU 522 - Mack Martin Rod / Reel | Trout Unlimited \(tulocalevents.org\)](http://tulocalevents.org)



Thank You, Mack, for your generous donation!





You Are Invited to the June Chapter Fishing Trip!

After talking to some of our chapter members, it is time to saddle up and head to the stream. **The Straight Fork** in the GSMNP will be a good one to do some native trout fishing. There are rainbows, some browns and maybe some native brook trout in the mix. The access points are easy and not too difficult to get in and out of The Straight Fork. The entrance is located right beside and just a little ways past the Cherokee Indian Reservation fish hatchery. The Straight Fork is the stream that feeds the Hatchery. The stream will be on your right as you go through the entrance. **Wednesday June 14th**. Meet at the **Piggly Wiggly lot in Dillard**. We can car pool if you would like. Time is **6:30 AM**. I would suggest bring a sandwich or two and you drinks. I will have a cooler and some ice but my cooler is not too big. You will need a Park fishing license or a NC fishing license. I need a head count. Please call me @ 706-201-0138 or email me @ david2053@windstream.net. Please be familiar with all the regulations for fishing in the GSMNP.

Check this out;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTbcnSnLjLg&pp=ygUZc3RyYWlnaHQgZm9yayBmbHkgZmlzaGluZw%3D%3D>.

Thanks,
Mike Fuller

May 08, 2023

Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 371
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Re: Donation for Smithgall Woods Education Programs

Dear Chapter Members,

Thank you, so much, for your most generous donation of \$1000 to the Smithgall Woods Regional Education Center (SWREC). With this wonderful donation, the SWREC will be able to continue providing top-notch environmental education to the 26 counties of WRD Region II.

This year has been an amazing one for education through the SWREC. We have broken all of our previous records in number of programs given and persons reached. With 6 more weeks to go in the fiscal year, Smithgall has already given 838 programs to 24,552 wonderful attendees. We can't wait to see who we get to encounter this summer! All of this is made possible by wonderful support from fabulous people like the Rabunites. Please accept our most sincere thanks for all you do!

Sincerely,



Kathy Church
Wildlife Interpretive Specialist
Smithgall Woods State Park



Smithgall Woods
State Park 

Tammy,

Thank you very much for the generous donation to the Atlanta program. The positive impact Rabun TU has had on our Veterans in the region is unmatched. I am amazed at the unceasing contributions and support from your individual members and your Chapter as a whole.

Sincerely,
Chip Cavin



Chip Cavin
Program Lead
Atlanta Georgia
404-386-2249
chip.cavin@projecthealingwaters.org

www.projecthealingwaters.org

Fishing Reports

A Good Day with Landon

Submitted by Peter Croes

It was 05:20 am and I'm usually up around this time although only for a few minutes before I return to bed; but today's different because it's the day I am traveling over to Dahlonga for the Chestatee River watershed Adventure Kayak Trip with Landon Williams. I had purchased this trip at this year's Rabun Rendezvous silent auction. So the alarm was set for 05:30 and I did not return for the additional sleep.

Our target species, or at least mine, were the Striped Bass which "reportedly" make the run up from Lake Lanier from late March thru mid to end of May. I selected/brought my favorite topwater and jerk baits along with both conventional and spinning rigs. I was looking for the fish over 10 lb mark that are said to be in these waters in good numbers. Additionally, some smaller plugs were packed for the Shoal Bass and Chattahoochee Redeye Bass.

I left Dillard around 05:50 and arrived at the kayak takeout area across from the local mall a/k/a Dollar General. There I met Landon and left my vehicle while we drove back up to the launch area upstream. The day before the USGS water gauge height was slightly below the 1.5 ft height and Landon said that anything below 2.3 is ok for fishing/wading. At that time Landon suggested that we cut off the 25# Ambrosia leaders I had rigged in favor of some 20lb mono. He then suggested that I leave the bait caster in the truck and use only my spinning which I did.

On to the Chestatee River launch area we went carrying down both kayaks and gear in a couple of trips. We launched and were on the water around 07:50 am and seemingly had the river all to ourselves. There was only one other truck in the parking area. If you look at the photos you'll see that I had the red Pelican kayak and Landon was in his favorite yellow one.

I started fishing a Whopper Plopper. As we progressed down river for one hundred or so casts we determined that the fish shared no interest in rising to take a chance on the topwater lure. Landon was fishing a Shaky Head and only had caught one bass. I switched to a jerk bait and, working both sides of the river, had only one tentative bump which could have been a rock or bounce off log strike. Landon suggested that I fish a Shaky Head with a brownish black specked worm which I agreed with and did.

After twenty or so casts I had a good hook up—my first with a Shaky Head- and it was a good "un! It was my first rainbow trout caught while fishing from a kayak. We netted it, did a quick photo op, and released it back with the hopes that the trout was not over stressed and would survive.

Shortly thereafter Landon reeled in a nice bass which had a recent skin injury probably made from a larger predator. It was released to swim away with great vigor.

I was amazed at both the quantity and size of the turtles sunning themselves on the banks virtually immune from the passersby in their kayak's only going into the water should they venture too close.

Fishing Reports, cont.

Shortly thereafter we began to experience a Memorial Day infestation of kayaks. You could hear their yammering or boom boxes several minutes before they passed. This went on for the rest of the trip, hearing the same question: *“Are you catching anything?”* If you ignored their questions, they seemed offended so I concocted several new species of fish, calling them stump bass, log bass, or rock bass. We did stop and had a Publix Italian sandwich lunch and were amused at the passersby and their conversations and comments.

Toward the end of the trip, about three-quarters of a mile from the takeout area, there were people panning for gold. As we made our way down river to the takeout, I told Landon that it seemed as though every rental kayak was on the Chestatee River that day!

It was good trip and I would recommend it to anyone. Thank you, Landon, for your donation of this trip for our Rendezvous Silent Auction. You are a true Rabunite at heart!



A Good Spring of Wild Brown Trout Fishing Submitted by Prez Tammy

Pat and I like to hike far up into the Upper Chattooga River Backcountry in the Spring of the year. There we fish for wild, stream-born brown trout. The mountain laurel blooms were especially awesome this year. There's no place prettier!



Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Foam Beetle

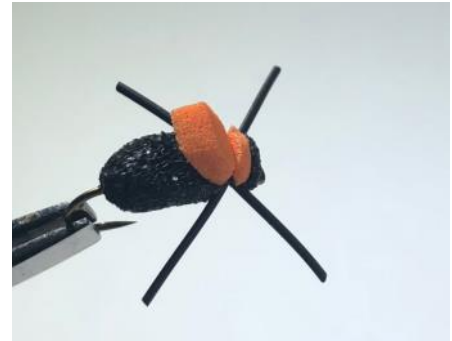
HOOK: Dry Fly Hook #12

BODY: Peacock Herl

BACK: Foam Rubber

LEGS: Medium Leg Material

POST: Orange Foam



GREAT FLY TO HAVE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS WHEN OTHER PATTERNS HAVE SLOWED DOWN.

SEE YOU ON "THE RIVER"! TERRY

Rabun Chapter Membership Update

Current membership: 173 adult members and 2 Stream Explorers

Welcome New Members!

David Ferguson, Clayton, GA; Thomas and Zach Martin, Clayton, GA; Mac and Janice Cook, Clayton, GA; Chuck Coulson, Rabun Gap, GA; Victoria Anderson, Lakemont, GA; Charlie Ellison, Clayton, GA; Jessica Anderson, Rabun Gap, GA; Evans Palmer, Clayton, GA; Todd and Alexis Reichart, Rabun Gap, GA; Micaiah Schanie, Clayton, GA; and Carole Wintle, Lakemont, 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.

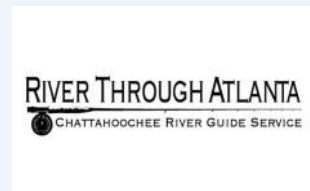
If you have any questions, contact the Chapter Prez [Tammy Hopton](#).

We look forward to having you in our Chapter!

JUNE Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies .</u>
None at all	All Month	All Day	Dredging Nymphs:12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, Pheasant Tail
Green, Brown Caddis	Early	L pm	12-14 Dark Elk Hair Caddis w/ Green 12-14 Dun & Green Caddis Pupa
Speckled Grey Caddis	Early	L pm	12-14 Grey Elk Hair Caddis w/ Green 12-14 Dun & Yellow Caddis Pupa
Small Dun Caddis	All month	Mid am	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis w/ Green 18 Grey Caddis Pupa
Giant Black Stonefly	All Month	E am	4-8 Black Stonefly Nymph
Brown Stonefly	All Month	E to mid am	10-12 Brown Stonefly Nymph
Light Cahill Mayfly	Late	E to L pm	12-14 Light Cahill 12-14 Light Cahill Nymph
Trico Mayfly	Mid-Late	Mid am	20 Parachute Trico
Trico Spinner Fall	Mid-Late	Late am	20-22 Polywing Black Spinner
Midges	All month	All day	18-20 Griffiths Gnat 18-20 Midge Pupa
Terrestrial	All month	All day	Ants, beetles, crickets, inch worms, etc.

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

[Tammy Hopton](#)

[Trey McFalls](#)

[Peter Croes](#)

[David Ruth](#)

[Jeff Durniak](#)

[Ray King](#)

[Kent Wilson](#)

[Steve Perry](#)

[Mike Anderson](#)

[Rick O'Hara](#)

Chapter President
Chapter Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Past President
Rendezvous Chair
Director thru 03/24
Director thru 03/25
Director thru 03/26
Director thru 03/27

Non-Voting Leaders

[Michele Crawford](#)

[Jerry McFalls](#)

[Pat Hopton](#)

[Charlie Breithaupt](#)

Women's Outreach
Scouts Liaison
Tight Lines Editor
Memorials

Prez Notes

Thank you to all who pitched in at the stream work project on upper Reed Creek. It was a great success! We had a good group of folks to show up and get their hands dirty. We rebuilt some old stream structures that had been put in years ago. Good job Rabunites!

Thank you to Kathy and Charlie for organizing the May Chapter Meeting and Hot Dog Cook-out event! We had great food and fellowship, and then we went fishing. It was a perfect evening!

Also, a big ***thank you*** to Mike Anderson and Jeff Durniak for giving your time and effort to take some of our new members out fishing. What a wonderful gift you have given them.

I hope you all have a great June. Warm weather is upon us. Maybe you can go fish a few higher elevation creeks for some Brookies. I know that I will be there.

Scenes from the work project:



Scenes from the May Meeting / Hot Dog Cookout:

