



TIGHT LINES

July 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!



NEXT RABUN CHAPTER MEETING FUN EVENT!

Tuesday, July 11—Annual Family Picnic

Time: Beginning at 5:00 pm – Fellowship, Dinner, and Drawing for Rod

Where: Kelly's Waterfall Park, Dillard, GA

From Dillard, GA take GA Hwy 246 North for 1.8 miles. Turn right onto Wayfarer Lane. Go to the end of the road.

There will be no “meeting” this month. Rather, you are invited to our annual Family Picnic! The Chapter provides the fried chicken, plates, cups, silverware, and drinks. Please bring a covered dish of food and a chair to sit on. ***This would be a great time to bring a friend and introduce them to your Chapter!***

At the picnic we will draw for the winner of the Mack Martin Rod Sweepstakes. There's still time to buy your tickets! See page 3.





Happy 4th of July!



Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- **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 Sweepstakes 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.**
- **Tuesday, Aug 22. Annual Chattooga River Electroshocking Fish Survey.** This year the Ellicotts Rock section will be sampled. Be aware this is a 3 mile hike in and out, carrying gear, water, and food. Meet at the Burrells Ford bridge at 8:00 am. Rain date will be Aug 29.
- **Saturday, Jan 20, 2024. 37th Annual Rabun Rendezvous.** Dillard House Conference Center, Dillard, GA.



Photo taken by [Michele Crawford](#)

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

Washington Irving

Our Annual Mack Martin Rod Sweepstakes 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!



2023 Trout Camp—Another Success!!

The 2023 Georgia Trout Camp was a success! 11 boys and 1 girl representing most of the chapters in our state gained knowledge in cold water conservation, improved in fly casting and fly tying and...you don't have to believe this if you don't want to...all caught a trout on a fly.

Our partners from the Georgia DNR and the US Forest Service supported us throughout the camp and, as always, added much to the experience for the campers.

Over 50 TU volunteers gave of their time, talent, equipment, energy and passion to pass on to the coming generations the skill and knowledge to not only enjoy fly fishing for trout but to also appreciate all that is a part of the wonderful sport...entomology, conservation, stream restoration, casting, fly tying, fishing etiquette and comradery...to name a few.

Thanks to all for making the Georgia Trout Camp successful one more time.

Click on the Drop Box link below to see the complete photos of the 2023 Trout Camp!

https://photos.google.com/invite/share/AF1QipOoVXvPfJ8Eiva7Ut6ztrhYHQ-2Hnqt3hwToXmFZcaoUSPq_oU9f4gtvoaFeZtymw?inviteKey=TTRuVG1MaTIQcU5SVG VxQVpXakdwQIZ1LUtCdmRR



Rabun Chapter Prez Tammy Hopton with the two Trout Campers that the chapter sponsored in 2023: Alex Walker (l) and Calder Adams (r). Both Alex and Calder said they had a great time and appreciated the sponsorship from the Rabun Chapter.

"There's certainly something in fishing that makes a man feel he is doing right; I can't explain it, but it's very pleasant." - [Norman Maclean](#)

More Pictures from June, 2023



Seven volunteers from the Rabun Chapter showed up to help at the Tallulah River Kids Fishing Event. *Thank you!* to Frank Patton for working with the Forest Service to coordinate the event!



Laurel Smith, Rabun Chapter member, and Kathy Church, Smithgall Woods Education Coordinator, with a pine snake at the Tallulah River Kids Fishing Event.



The folks from the Savannah River Chapter set up their fish cleaning station again at the Tallulah River Kids Fishing Event.



Happy smiles on kids faces is what it's all about! *Passing It On* at the Tallulah River Kids Fishing Event!



Chapter Prez Tammy presenting a gift on behalf of the Rabun Chapter to Kevin Daniels, Savannah River Chapter, to be used for fundraising.



Chapter Prez Tammy presenting a gift on behalf of the Rabun Chapter to Sarah Baker, GA DNR Trout Fisheries Biologist, in appreciation for her excellent program at the June Chapter meeting.

Casting for Recovery

Georgia

Our Free Fall Retreat Will Be Held November 3rd, 4th and 5th At Smithgall Woods in Helen, GA



Women with a Metastatic Stage IV breast cancer diagnosis are eligible to apply.

To Apply complete an online application by August 24th at:

www.castingforrecovery.org/retreats

And choose the Georgia Program



Proposed Changes to GA Trout Fishing Regulations—Comments Requested

Note: The Rabun Chapter has not yet taken a position on these [proposed changes](#). It will be discussed at the upcoming July Board of Directors meeting. You may contact any of the Board to express your opinions on what position the Chapter should take, or you may express your opinion directly to the GA DNR *as an individual, not representing the Chapter*.

Anglers: Submit Input on Proposed Rule Making Changes to Trout Fishing before Deadline

Anglers and other interested citizens, your comments on [rule changes](#) to trout fishing is welcome and requested. Changes to the existing rules are responsive to customer desires related to trout fishing, according to the [Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division Notice and Synopsis of Proposed Rule Making](#) (*Please review document(s) in their entirety*)

How to Provide Comment:

- **Virtual Public Hearing:** Live via the [Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division Facebook Page](#)) scheduled for July 20, 2023 (7pm).
- **Email:** Submit by [e-mail \(fm.comments@dnr.ga.gov\)](mailto:fm.comments@dnr.ga.gov).
- **Phone:** By phone (706-557-3305).
- **Mail:** Mail comments to: GA DNR Wildlife Resources Division/Fisheries Management Section/[2067 US Hwy. 278](#), SE/Social Circle, GA 30025.

Comment Deadline:

Proposed Rule Making-Trout: Submission Deadline is close of business (4:30 p.m.) on July 28, 2023.

Annual Chattooga River Sampling Work Day

The Annual Chattooga River Electroshocking River Sampling will take place on Tuesday, August 22.

This year the Ellicotts Rock section will be sampled. Be aware this is a 3 mile hike in and out, carrying gear, water, and food.

Meet at the Burrells Ford bridge at 8:30 am.

Rain date will be Aug 29.



Fishing Reports

Spring Fishing in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

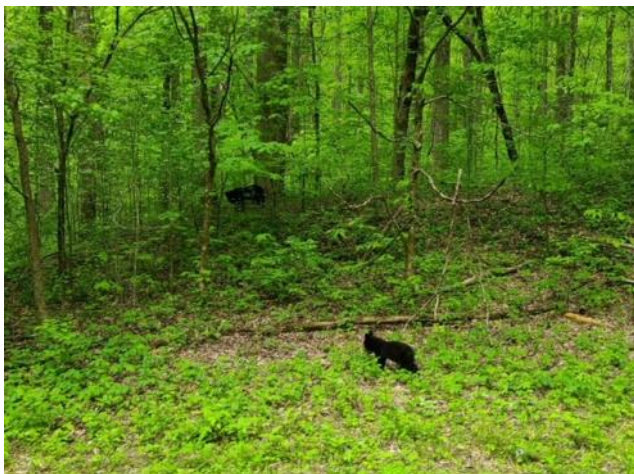
Submitted by Brian Weeks

Springtime is a prime time of the year to visit the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with its bounty of beautiful wildflowers, active wildlife, moderate air temperatures, and fantastic dry fly fishing.

A couple of trips up there late this spring yielded some energetic wild trout, plentiful and pleasant views of wildflowers, a few elk and turkey sightings, as well as a black bear and her cub.

In my experience, I've become convinced that the most important key to catching wild trout is stealth. In addition to that, a few other things I've found helpful to increase size and numbers are to search for and find the water the trout are feeding in, which can change depending on the water temps and flows, as well as moving often by resisting the temptation to stay parked in one spot too long.

The GSMNP offers nearly endless fishing opportunities, and the major bonus I appreciate so much is the sheer beauty of the surroundings in which we're able to fish.



Fishing Reports, cont.

Small Creek Fishing Submitted by Tammy Hopton

Summer has arrived and the heat is on. I decided to go try a higher altitude creek that I have never fished before. It involved lots of hiking and just a little fishing. I am happy to report that there are young rainbow trout in this stream... though I only brought one to hand because the rest were just too quick for me to net. (Sorry no pictures).

It was a beautiful area... and I felt like I was in the middle of nowhere. Lots of pretty flowers and bear sign!



A Message from Mike Fuller

Hello chapter members;

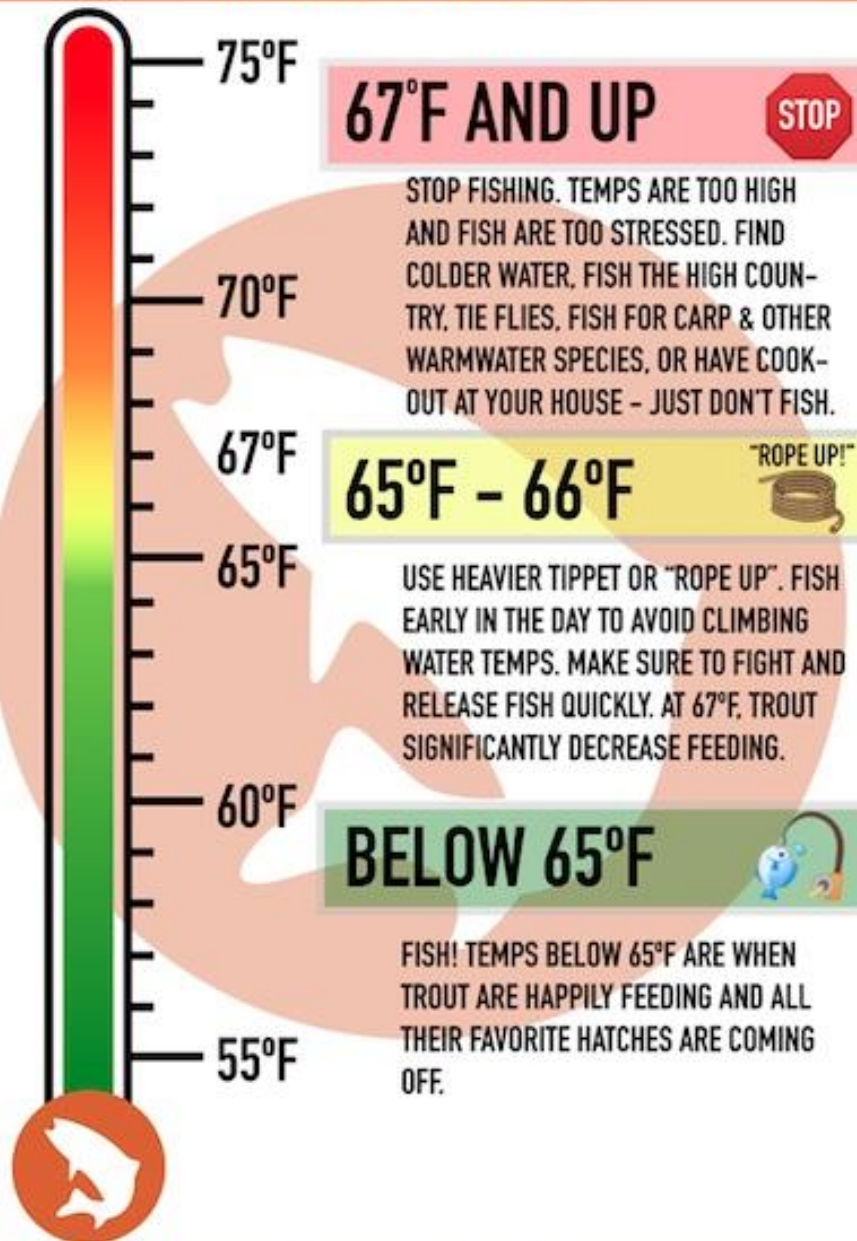
After several bumps and hiccups, I am asking your advice on where you would love to take a chapter fishing outing. I am past my eye surgery and everything is looking good. I would like to hit the streams. I would like to ask the chapter members where they would like to fish.

If you can give me an idea of where you would enjoy fishing and it is close by , then please let me know. If you can email me at david2053@windstream.net or send me a text at 706-201-0138. From your input, I will send out the trip information. Please let me hear from you.

Thanks,
Mike Fuller

WATER TEMPERATURE & TROUT

WHEN TO FISH & WHEN NOT TO



WWW.TROUTSFLYFISHING.COM



The hot weather and light hatches of July and August are two of the reasons (excuses really) why many Rabunites make annual treks to fish and camp "West of Hiawassee", or as Lewis Reeves Jr. used to say: "Out Yonder".

JULY 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
Golden Stonefly	All Month	E am	8-12 Ginger Stimulator 6-10 Golden Stonefly Nymph
Brown Stonefly	All Month	E to mid am	10-12 Brown Stonefly Nymph
Light Cahill Mayfly	All month	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.

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Foam Grasshopper

HOOK: Dry Fly Hook #10-16

BODY: Peacock Herl or Dubbing of your Choice

BACK: Black, Brown, or Yellow Foam Rubber

WING: White Antron, Elk Hair, or Deer Hair

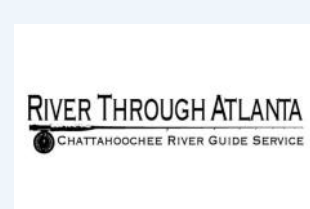
LEGS: Medium Rubber Leg Material to Match Foam Color



IT'S TERRESTRIAL TIME OF YEAR! USE HOPPERS, BEETLES OR ANTS. TRY DROPPING A SMALL CRAYFISH OFF THE BACK AND HOLD ON!

See you on The River! Terry

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

Non-Voting Leaders

Michele Crawford	Women's Outreach
Jerry McFalls	Scouts Liaison
Pat Hopton	Tight Lines Editor
Vacant	Memorials

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!

Rabun Chapter Membership Update

Current membership: 172 adult members and 2 Stream Explorers

Prez Notes

I would like to give you a quick update on some of our Chapter activities. We recently received a proposal from the Forest Service that would describe further work proposed within the Double Bit Campsites to help reduce sedimentation into Reed Creek. We have examined the proposal and have prepared a response back to the Forest Service.

Basically, in our response we supported most of the Double Bit plan. We also requested that the Forest Service identify and correct other, more pressing sources of sediment into Reed Creek. Of those, the greatest source of sediment into Reed Creek is the Burrells Ford Road. If you have traveled that road recently then you know what we mean!

We have offered to the Forest Service our assistance both financially and with labor in correcting these sediment sources. With Steve Perry's Conservation Chairperson leadership we hope to further strengthen our partnership with the Forest Service. Stay tuned—I'm sure we will be getting a lot of work projects in the future as a result of this effort.

You may remember that I had two focuses for my term as your President. The first being to get the Chapter more involved with hands-on conservation projects. This Reed Creek watershed project is just the first of hopefully many more soon to come projects. If you see a need for a conservation project, let Steve or myself know about it.

The second focus of my term is to get more young adults involved in our Chapter. To that end, I have tasked our Vice Prez, Trey McFalls, to come up with some new ideas on Chapter meeting programs and locations that would appeal to young adults. He, along with our program coordinator Jeff Durniak, have some ideas for the upcoming September Chapter meeting. Yay! If you have any ideas, pass them along to Trey and Jeff.

As you can see, these are exciting times for the Rabun Chapter. I hope you all have a great summer. I certainly plan to.... Pat and I are headed "out west" in a couple of weeks! Until then, I hope to see you at the Family Picnic.

Prez Tammy



A 24" rainbow trout caught and released on a dry fly using a 4 weight rod!