



TIGHT LINES

September 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

Tuesday, September 19—"Casting and Cold Cuts"

Join us at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, September 19 for "Casting and Cold Cuts" at the Rabun County Park pond. The park is on Rabun County Park Road just off Highway 441, south of the high school. Grab a sammich provided by the Chapter and tune into Prez Tammy's brief chapter news. Then tune up your flycasting skills for the fall fishing season. You can practice pondside with instruction from some chapter vets if you desire. A limited number of loaner rods are available, too for prospective fly flingers.

Think you're already good at this casting gig? Then you competitive folks can sign up for Trey's casting contest in the field adjacent to the pond.

Not into casting? No problem. We've rented the two pondside picnic shelters from 6 to 8PM. Bring a lawn chair and some bug spray and just hang out with your old and new Rabunite buddies. Swap fish stories from your summer trips "out yonder" or plan new ones for fall.

RSVP's welcomed, but not required. They'll help us to buy enough vittles. Call or text Jeff at 706-892-6576 NLT 9/18.

Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- **Saturday, Sept 16. Quarterly Georgia Council Meeting.** Anyone can attend. 9:00 am. Lumpkin County Senior Citizen Center, Dahlonega, GA. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Tuesday, Sept 19. Rabun Chapter Monthly Meeting.** Program will be “Casting and Cold Cuts”. To be held at 6:00 pm at the Rabun County Park pond, just south of the Rabun County High School off US Hwy 441. Sandwich dinner provided by the Chapter. See page 1 for more information.
- **Tuesday, Sept 26. 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.
- **Sunday, Oct 1. North Carolina Delayed Harvest Trout Season begins.**
- **Thursday, Oct 5. Plant Propagation Workshop.** This workshop will focus on propagating by cuttings plants commonly used for streambank stabilization projects. Hosted by North Georgia Technical College. Cost is \$15 per person. See the flyer on page 5 or contact [Steven Patrick](#), Habersham County Extension Service at (706) 839-0255 for more information.
- **Tuesday, Oct 17. Rabun Chapter Monthly Meeting.** Program will be “Rabunite 201”. To be held at 6:00 pm at the Hatch Camp and Art Farm, just off Warwoman Road. Rabun Chapter “old-timers” will mentor Chapter “new-timers” while fishing the private trophy waters of Warwoman Creek. See the October Issue of Tightlines for more information.
- **Tuesday, Oct 24. 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.
- **Saturday, October 28. Chattahoochee River Streambank Stabilization Conservation Project.** Hosted by the GA Foothills Chapter. Volunteers from the Rabun Chapter are needed to assist with planting trees and shrubs to stabilize the streambank along an eroded section of the Chattahoochee River near Helen. 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. See page 4 or contact Project Coordinator Jeff Durniak at (706) 892-6576 for more information.
- **Wednesday, Nov 1. Georgia Delayed Harvest Trout Season begins.**
- **Wednesday, Nov 8 to Sunday, Nov 12. Annual Rabun Chapter Fall Campout.** [Oconee State Park](#). Make your own campsite reservations. Meals will be communal at Campsite 91. Contact [Terry Rivers](#) to sign up to cook a meal.
- **Saturday, Jan 20, 2024. 37th Annual Rabun Rendezvous.** Dillard House Conference Center, Dillard, GA.

Prez Tammy is the Winner of the Annual Mack Martin Rod Sweepstakes !

Good food, good friends, perfect weather and one excited lady angler!

Yep, that's Chapter Prez Tammy Hopton celebrating the news at the Chapter's annual July family picnic that she won the raffle for Mack Martin's custom-built Winston 3-weight fly rod!

The rod raffle brought in more than \$1,800 to support our programs. That's a new record. We can't thank Mack enough for his generosity in crafting and donating such a beautiful trout tickler to our Chapter.



[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on the Atlanta Fly Fishing School.

More Scenes rom the July Family Picnic



The Rabun Chapter Partners with the GA Foothills Chapter on a Streambank Stabilization Project along the Chattahoochee River

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WORK DAY—OCT 28, 9:00 am—12:00 pm

During the July Rabun Chapter Board of Directors meeting it was approved to support the GA Foothill Chapter proposed “Chattahoochee River Streambank Stabilization Project” near Helen, GA. The BOD approved a cash donation of \$500 to be used for supplies and also agreed to support the project by providing volunteer labor during project work days.

Rabun TU representative Jeff Durniak delivered the \$500 check from our chapter to Jim Watson of the Foothills TU Chapter to support stream bank restoration along the Chattahoochee River near Helen. Combined with funds already pledged by the Foothills Chapter, this money will purchase native trees, planting tools and other supplies to stabilize the badly eroding stream bank and improve trout habitat.

This collaborative project also includes ongoing contributions from the two UGA Extension Agents in Habersham and White Counties, Steven Patrick and Nathan Eason. They've already provided river birch and elderberry shrubs that TU members helped plant to create a visible no-mow border along the river. The new funds will be used to purchase native trees to further stabilize the river shore and eventually provide shaded refuges for trout.

The first project workday is scheduled for Saturday, October 28 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Volunteers from Trout Unlimited Chapters GA Foothills (Clarkesville), Rabun (Clayton), and Gold Rush (Dahlonaga), along with the GADNR Parks Division and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service will plant native trees and shrubs in a 500-foot section of land along the Chattahoochee River at the Helen-to-Hardman Trail. We're looking for willing planters to assist in this effort to stabilize the riverbank and protect trout stream temperatures.

The site is the upstream entrance to the trail, on the south end of town at 10 Brucken Street, behind the Helen treatment ponds. Volunteer should bring work gloves, shovels, eye protection, a pick or mattock, rake, hammer, and a wire fence cutter, as we'll install protective hog-wire fencing around each tree. For more information, feel free to contact Jeff Durniak at jeffdurniak@yahoo.com or phone/text to [706-892-6576](tel:706-892-6576).

The Chattahoochee and its tributaries, including the Soque, Smith Creek and Dukes Creek, belong to all of us. The Rabun Chapter is proud to be a part of protecting it.

The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now.

Proverb



7-31-23

Dear Rabun TU members,
 The Georgia Foothills Chapter
 graciously accepts and appreciates
 your donation for our streambank
 improvement project for the
 Chattahoochee River in Helen.
 We hope to see many of you
 this winter when we apply spade to
 dirt!
 Thank you again!
 Georgia Foothills Chapter, TU

Rabun TU representative Jeff Durniak delivered a \$500 check from the Rabun Chapter to Jim Watson of the Foothills Chapter to support the stream bank restoration project along the Chattahoochee River near Helen.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Streambank Plant Propagation Workshop

October 5th - North Georgia Technical College

Come learn how to propagate shrubs from cuttings, live stakes, and seed to develop plant material for riparian zone plantings. The program will feature speakers from UGA and NGTC in the morning, lunch at NGTC, a hands on session after lunch, and tours of local restoration sites in the afternoon. Info will be posted soon to reveal full details. Registration will be \$15/person, unless you are a student at NGTC attending as part of your class.

Please share with friends and colleagues. For more information, contact steveg@uga.edu or call 706 839-0255.



Photo of buttonbush, ready to plant, in a one gallon container. Cuttings were taken in May of this year.

North Georgia Technical College will host a one-day class on propagating by cuttings plants commonly used for streambank stabilization. Cost is \$15.00 per person.



Fishing Reports

Out Yonder

Submitted by Past Prez Jeff Durniak (aka “Dredger”)

Our “Out Yonder” quartet (Jeff, Jimmy, Athens Alan, and Michigan Mike) reunited for the first time in four years and had a great July trip to the Yellowstone area. We stayed once again with our dear friends, Dream Trip hosts John and Laine McGarity, and fished our usual stream circuit inside and outside the park.

Trip highlights included hitting the salmonfly hatch on the Madison for big bows and browns, netting the first Yellowstone River cutt for a couple of us, adopting fellow Rabunite Jim Kidd (a summer park security officer) for a Roosevelt Lodge supper and two fishing days, and reuniting with a couple of our favorite northeast corner streams. It sure was nice to trade Atlanta traffic jams for park bison jams!

Get out yonder yourselves next summer. You’ll make some priceless lifetime memories, too. To help y’all with planning, check out my article in the September issue of The Angler magazine:

<https://coastalanglermag.com/e-magazine/atlanta/>

Waaahh-HOOO!



Fishing Reports

Tripp's First Time with a Fly Rod

Submitted by Ray Gentry (Proud Grandad)

My grandson, Tripp was going to UGA in two weeks and he called and ask me a question. Grandad could we trout fish with a fly rod before I go to UGA? He had been trout fishing with a spinning gear twice. I was delighted and said yes and we planned to go next week.

He planned to arrive the night before allowing time to go to the small lake for a practice session with a flyrod. He quickly discovered it was not as simple as he thought. He used my practice rod which is a wand with a length of yarn attached to it.

He was a quick learner and after a while he was able to make the yarn behave properly on the cast. Then we had a session showing him the roll cast which he mastered quickly. We then tried the real thing with rod and fly line and after a while he was able to duplicate both cast with the flyrod.

The next morning, we went to a favorite place on the river. We saw a few fish but they wouldn't bite. After about three hours with no strike's and plenty of rain we decided to move on. We went to a creek that fed into the river and tried our luck. We fished for a short time and we discovered a fisherman with a full stringer of fish and when he left and we move into the spot.

We caught trout for three hours. Unknown to us the hatchery truck had recently visited that creek. They were healthy nine to thirteen inches hatchery trout. And glory be they readily hit the flies we used. We kept 12 trout for a fish him fry but we caught 30 to 40 trout before we left. Tripp released over 20 trout but I told this was not a typical trout fishing trip. Many times, I got skunked or only caught one or two but half of the time I caught six or eight. He was sold on flyfishing and I could not be happier. Tripp said "can we cook them" and I said let's go heat up the skillet!



Want to boost your own fly-casting skills and learn how to teach others the art of the long rod?

Our buddies at the Atlanta Fly Fishing School will be offering a 2-day intensive seminar next March to help anglers earn certification as Fly Fishing Instructors recognized by Fly Fishers International.

Details at <https://www.atlantaflyfishingschool.com/instructor-cert>



Please keep Chapter members Dean English and Nannette O'Hara in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with some health issues.

Chapter Prez Tammy Hopton with a beautiful Yellowstone River strain cutthroat trout, caught in Slough Creek, within Yellowstone National Park. Tammy caught the fish on a grasshopper pattern while using her new Winston Aire 8 1/2 foot, 3 weight fly rod custom built by Mack Martin (see page 3).

More details and pictures of Tammy and Pat's trip to Yellowstone NP will be in the October issue of Tightlines.



September Hatch Chart

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

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Zug Bug

HOOK: Nymph #10-16

THREAD: Olive

TAIL: 4-6 Peacock Swords

BODY: Peacock Herl Palmer with Silver Tinsel

BACK: Black, Brown, or Yellow Foam Rubber

WING CASE: Wood Duck

LEGS: Brown Hackle

HEAD: Brass Bead



ONE OF MY FAVORITE FLIES TO FISH AS A DROPPER. DURING A CADDIS HATCH ON TOP AND THE RISES SLOW DOWN DROP THIS IMITATION OF A CASE CADDIS BEHIND A DRY CADDIS IT HAS DONE THE JOB FOR ME. JUST FOR HISTORY OF THIS FLY WAS INVENTED IN 1930 BY J. CLIFF ZUG.

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: 168 adult members and 3 youth members

Prez Notes

Pat and I decided to visit Yellowstone National Park during August for our annual “west of Hiawassee” fishing and camping trip. Fishing in the Park was quite challenging but it was fun and the scenery and wildlife was amazing. I think we tamped down our Rocky Mountain Fever for at least another year—but as you know if you are yourself infected, the fever will most certainly will rear back up next summer. We may go back to this same area next year, we enjoyed it so much this year. If you ever get the chance I highly recommend visiting Yellowstone National Park.

But we’re home now and it’s back to work as your Chapter Prez for me. We have a lot coming up for our Chapter. The 2024 Rabun Rendezvous planning will be the most important topic for our Board of Directors for the next several months. Some of the feedback we have gotten from previous Rendezvous has asked if we could change it up somewhat, maybe add some new things to it. If you have some new, innovative ideas to “freshen up” the Rendezvous, please contact Ray King, myself, or any Board member. We would love to hear your ideas!

Regarding our Chapter meetings, some feedback we have gotten from them is that folks want more “hands-on” topics for meetings. So we have responded by planning casting instruction as the topic for the September meeting. This will be the first of two outdoor, hands-on Chapter monthly meetings we have planned for this fall. We can thank Jeff Durniak and Trey McFalls for their hard work in planning these meetings. You won’t want to miss them.

Another desire expressed by Chapter members is to have more conservation work projects. Experience has shown that these projects are fun and build camaraderie among the members, along with accomplishing important work in improving our cold-water resources. To that end, the Rabun Chapter, along with the Gold Rush Chapter, will assist the Foothills Chapter with a conservation project along the banks the Chattahoochee River in White County. See page 4 for more details. Also, Steve Perry continues dialogue with the Forest Service on planning conservation projects to reduce sediment within the Reed Creek watershed. We look forward to hearing from Steve on upcoming conservation projects.

As you can see, the Chapter leadership is working hard to meet the desires of the Chapter members while accomplishing our mission to conserve, protect, and restore Northeast Georgia’s coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. But we need your help. Continue to give us your feedback on the Chapter. Also, there are opportunities to volunteer for leadership positions in our Chapter. Please consider your talents and gifts and contact me if you are interested in helping our Chapter succeed.