



TIGHT LINES

October 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, October 17—"Rabunite 201"

If you're a flyfishing rookie, then sign up for this FREE event. Rabun TU will host "Rabunite 201" on Tuesday, October 17 at Hatch Camp and Art Farm as our October chapter meeting. The camp is on Joe Speed Road along Warwoman Creek, east of Clayton.

A heaping handful of veteran chapter members will offer instream flyfishing instruction to our new and prospective anglers. We have 8 slots and two time shifts (4-5:30 PM, 5:30 till dark) available on that date to host up to 16 guests. Guests should bring their own wading gear. Volunteer guides will have rods and tackle available for loan if needed. Catch and release fly fishing only will be the order of the day.

Sign up soon by emailing past Prez Dredger at jeffdurniak@yahoo.com. First dibs go to chapter members and their family and friends. Any remaining open slots will be advertised to the local community via our Facebook page.

Not fishing or guiding? Well, please come out anyway to hang out with your fellow chapter members and cheer on our rookie anglers. Our host, Scott Lowe, has a picnic shelter available for us. Just bring your folding chair and your best fish stories and enjoy another outdoor meeting of our clan. The chapter will provide drinks and light snacks for all attendees. Big ole Rabunite Waaah-HOOO to Scott for this opportunity to share our sport!

Who's in? Let's get those rookies to sign up soon by emailing Jeff. When's the last time you had an offer of FREE fishing guides? See y'all on the 17th!



Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- **Sunday, Oct 1. North Carolina Delayed Harvest Trout Season begins.** [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- **Thursday, Oct 12. Fishing Access Public Meeting.** To be held at 8:30 am at the Haversham EMC Community Room in Clarkesville, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, Oct 14. Chapter Fishing Trip.** Everyone is invited. Fishing will be done at the West Fork of the Chattooga River. Meet at the Burger King parking lot at 6:30 am. Contact [Mike Fuller](#) 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. See the page 1 or contact [Jeff Durniak](#) 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 3 or contact Project Coordinator [Jeff Durniak](#) for more information.
- **Wednesday, Nov 1. Georgia Delayed Harvest Trout Season begins.** [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- **Wednesday, Nov 1. South Carolina Delayed Harvest Trout Season begins.** [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- **Friday, Nov 3 to Sunday, Nov 5. Becoming an Outdoors Woman.** Hosted by GA Department of Natural Resources, with volunteers from Trout Unlimited assisting. Held at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center near Mansfield, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- **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. See page 4 for more information.
- **Tuesday, Nov 21. Monthly Rabun Chapter meeting.** Time and place to be determined.
- **Saturday, Dec 2. Quarterly Georgia Council Trout Unlimited Meeting.** Anyone can attend. 9:00 am. US Forest Service office, Gainesville, GA. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Tuesday, Dec 19. Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner.** 6:00-8:00 pm. The Rock House at the Dillard House in Dillard, GA. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, Jan 20, 2024. 37th Annual Rabun Rendezvous.** Dillard House Conference Center, Dillard, GA.

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 (Clarksville), 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



Fall Chapter Campout!

The Rabun Chapter will hold its annual Fall Chapter Campout on Nov 8 -12, 2023 at Oconee State Park, just across the SC line from Rabun County. It's sure to be a great time for fishing and fellowship.

The Georgia Delayed Harvest trout season begins Nov 1 and the Chattooga River should be well-stocked by the time of our campout. Yee Haa!!!

Campsite #91 (note that this is different than in years past) in the "Wooded Loop" will be the official gathering site. Bring your own chair to sit around the fire! Campsites fill up fast this time of year, so don't delay in making your campsite reservations.

We will cook and eat breakfast and supper together every day and you are on your own for your noon meal. If you volunteer to cook a meal, then all meals are free for you. If you don't cook a meal, then you pay \$5 for each meal you eat to the cook. Now that's a deal! Let Terry Rivers know of the meal you wish to cook, and what meals you plan to eat so the cooks can plan the meals. And hey! - if you don't want to camp, just come by for a meal or sit by the fire! Wednesday supper is "*Bring Your Own Steak*" night!

If you have questions or plan to eat a meal, contact your camp host by email [Terry Rivers](mailto:Terry.Rivers@rabun.org) or at 706-782-7419.

To make campsite reservations, [CLICK HERE](#).

Let's have a big turnout.... see you there!



Fly Fishing Pontoon Boat for Sale to Benefit 2024 Trout Camp

Jeff Fields donated his Fly Fishing Pontoon boat to the GA Council to raise money for Trout Camp. 100% of what is raised the Council will use for Trout Camp.

This has been put this on Facebook Marketplace at the link below. Normally these boats go for \$1000+ new.

https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/644599607615657?ref=search&referral_code=null&referral_story_type=post&tracking=browse_serp%3Ac3955efe-1e01-4038-818f-5dc992a3efe2



GA Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Streams: Open Nov. 1

Are you ready to Go TROUT Fish Georgia? Beautiful weather and fantastic scenery await you in the northern part of the state, and beginning in November, trout fishing on Georgia's delayed harvest trout streams will be in full swing, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

While trout fishing can be found year-round in Georgia, there are five trout streams that are seasonally managed under special regulations called Delayed Harvest (DH) to increase angler success. These streams have catch-and-release regulations from November 1-May 14 and are stocked monthly by WRD and other partner agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and South Carolina DNR. This combination of stocking and catch/release allows for good trout catch rates and high angler satisfaction.

Between November 1 - May 14, anglers on all delayed harvest streams are restricted to single hook, artificial lures. Beginning May 15, the general regulations to designated trout waters then apply to those streams.

This year, five delayed harvest streams will be stocked with trout. These streams include:

- **Chattahoochee River** from Sope Creek to US Highway 41 (Cobb Parkway).
- **Toccoa River** located on U.S. Forest Service land upstream of Lake Blue Ridge in Fannin County (from 0.4 miles above Shallowford Bridge to 450 feet above the Sandy Bottom Canoe Access).
- **Amicalola Creek** on the Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area (from Steele Bridge Road downstream to Georgia Hwy. 53).
- **Smith Creek** downstream of Unicoi Lake (Unicoi State Park).
- A portion of the **Chattooga River** (from Ga. Hwy. 28 upstream to the mouth of Reed Creek) on U.S. Forest Service land bordering South Carolina.

Pass on Those Pots!

Pass on your pots! Rabunites, please bring your empty plastic plant pots of one gallon or larger size to our next meeting. Jeff is collecting them for Habersham County Extension agent Steven Patrick. Steven is expanding his native plant and tree propagation program to several local greenhouses. Our old pots will help his propagation supplies and keep them out of landfills.

The plants are being used for stream buffer restoration programs in several NE GA counties, including our Hooch project at Hardman Farm. What a great way to recycle our old plant pots! Thanks in advance for your contributions. Pass on those pots!

Donation Made to UGA Five Rivers

Dear Rabun TU,

This is Conner Smith, and I am the president of the 5 Rivers Club at the University of Georgia. Our club appreciates your generous donations of the fly rods and other gear; and the funds allowing us to purchase new waders and boots. Because of this, we will be able to introduce many new anglers to the sport of fly fishing. Furthermore, we are also going to be able to introduce these new anglers to fisheries conservation. These donations are greatly appreciated, and will be put to good use, including fly fishing class and club trips. Thank you again for the donations, and we are looking forward to seeing you all soon. Please reach out if we can do anything to help your chapter.

Conner Smith, Management & Real Estate
Undergraduate student



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>



"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles."

Doug Larson

Fishing Reports

Our Trip to Yellowstone, submitted by Prez Tammy Hopton

Pat and I had a big agenda planned for our 2023 western fishing trip. However once we got to Yellowstone we liked it so much that we ended up staying there the entire time.

We made our base of operations just outside the northeast entrance to Yellowstone National Park, near Cooke City, MT. We camped in two different Forest Service campgrounds: [Soda Butte CG](#) and then [Fox Creek CG](#). Both were great, with Soda Butte being slightly prettier but with Fox Creek having electrical hookups and right on the Clarks Fork River.

Inside the Park we fished Soda Butte Creek, Lamar River, Slough Creek, Pebble Creek, and Hellroaring Creek. If you have fished the first two in the past, know that they are significantly changed from last years floods. However they all fished well, with many cutthroat trout up to 18" landed.

We were able to meet up and fish with Rabunite Jim Kidd for 5 days while there. Jim also joined us at our campsite and for dinner several times. It's always fun to meet up with Rabunites while camping and fishing out west.

Outside the Park we fished the Clarks Fork River, catching brook and rainbow trout.

We made many new friends while in the Cooke City area. We attended an outdoor music festival with friends, went to a street dance and hoedown to benefit the local fire department (ask me about dancing with a fireman!), and went to outdoor cookout at a new friends ranch outside of Red Lodge, MT. We even met an actress from the Yellowstone TV series!

We spent time in Gardiner, MT, Cody, WY and Red Lodge, MT, shopping, dining, and visiting the sights. We drove both the Beartooth and Chief Joseph Scenic Highways. We went on several hikes and were impressed with the incredible Rocky Mountain wildflower displays.

We had a great time and look forward to going back again!



October 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
Blue Wing Olive and Blue Quill (IMPORTANT)	All month	Late am to Mid pm	16-18 BWO, Blue Quill, Adams Parachute 16 BWO Nymph, Pheasant Tail
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

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Orange Stimulator aka October Caddis

HOOK: #2x Long Nymph

HEAD: Yellow Dubbing with Palmered Grizzly Hackle

TAIL: Deer Hair

BODY: Orange Dubbing and Brown Hackle

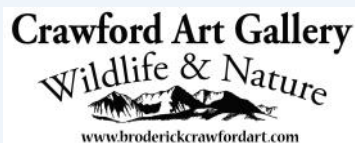
WING : Deer Hair



Great fly for the upcoming Delayed Harvest season! Drop a caddis nymph behind this fly and drag the bottom.

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

Welcome, new member Zac Chapman, from Clayton, GA!

Current membership: 167 adult members and 4 youth members.

Prez Notes

October has been beautiful, but rainless so far. I have checked several creeks and they are very low, so no fishing for me yet. Someone please do a rain dance.

We had a great September with a fun meeting at the Rabun County park for casting challenges and competition. A big thanks to Trey and Jeff for setting that up for us! Please come join our next meeting at the Hatch Camp!

We have had progress in the Reed Creek project proposal. I drove Burrells Ford Road yesterday and it has been scraped. A much better drive than before. Thanks to Steve Perry for his persistence in this matter! He is getting the ball rolling with our USFS partners. Look for ways you can help in the future once everything is settled.

Fall is always busy with Rabun Rendezvous preparation. There are volunteer opportunities for you to help gather donations and spread the word about our fundraiser. We need you! Contact Ray King to get involved.

We have several opportunities coming up in October for fishy fun. Including Fly Fishing 201 and Fishing and Fellowship with Mike. In addition we have scheduled a day to assist the Foothills Chapter with a Chattahoochee River bank stabilization project. Please mark your calendars and join us!

We appreciate you as a member and hope to see you at our next gathering. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Prez Tammy