



# **TIGHT LINES**

## **December 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!



### ***Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner***

**Who: All Chapter members and guests!**

**When: Tuesday, Dec 19**

**Where: The Rock House, located at the Dillard House,  
Dillard, GA**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

**Cost: \$44 per person**

**Pay at the door, checks payable to Rabun Chapter TU**

**Please RSVP to [Pat Hopton](#) by 12/16/23**



## **Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!**

- **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 16. 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, Dec 19. Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner.** 6:00-8:00 pm. The Rock House at the Dillard House in Dillard, GA. Everyone is invited! Meal cost is \$44.00 per person. BYOB. See page 1 or contact [Pat Hopton](#) for more information.
- **There will be no monthly Chapter meeting in December or January.**
- **Tuesday, Jan 16, 2024. 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.
- **Saturday, Jan 20, 2024. 37th Annual Rabun Rendezvous.** Dillard House Conference Center, Dillard, GA. See pages 3-5 for more details.
- **Friday, Feb 2—Sunday, Feb 4, 2024. Atlanta Fly Fishing Show.** Gas South Convention Center, Duluth, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, Feb 3, 2024. Annual Chapter Budget Meeting.** Dillard House Restaurant at 8:00 am. Breakfast will be provided. Anyone can attend, all Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs are expected to attend. Please RSVP to [Tammy Hopton](#) by Feb 1.
- **Tuesday, Feb 20, 2024. Monthly Chapter Meeting.** Shady Creek Expeditions, 56 North Main Street, Clayton, GA. Social starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Program: “Beginner Fly Tying”, presented by various Chapter fly tyers. All equipment and supplies will be provided. Important: nominations will be taken on upcoming Chapter officer vacancies, with a vote to be taken in March. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Tuesday, Feb 27, 2024. 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.
- **Saturday, March 16, 2024. Conservation Project at Hardman Farms-Chattahoochee River.** Contact [Jeff Durniak](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, March 23, 2024. Hoot on the Hooch.** Annual fund raising banquet for the GA Foothills Chapter. To be held at Helendorf Inn, Helen, GA. 5:30 pm. The winner of the 2024 Dream Trip Raffle will be announced. Contact Foothills Chapter President [Bruce Johnson](#) for more information.

# HAVE YOU SAVED THE DATE?

**The Rabun Rendezvous has returned to the normal January time!**

**Event: 2024 Rabun Rendezvous**  
**Location: The Dillard House, Dillard, GA**  
**When: Saturday, January 20, 2024**  
**Time: Event begins at 4:30 pm**

The 37<sup>th</sup> annual “Rabun Rendezvous” is just a few short weeks away! This event is the Rabun TU Chapter’s primary fund-raising event and we are very thankful for the support we have received over the years to help us fund cold water conservation, education and organization events and activities.

With the changes we have seen over the past year, the Rabun TU team has worked hard at trying to manage the costs of our event. We, as individuals, have seen prices rise for everything we consume. Our friends at the Dillard House have also experienced the increases.

The admission price for this year is: **\$50.00**. We made some changes in the item selection for the menu, with input from the great team at the Dillard House. Drinks will continue to be offered in the foyer / registration area, the “Pig-Pickin’” and a large selection of the great meats, salads, vegetables and desserts will be available.

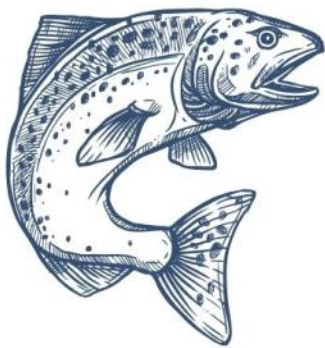
Please save the date and join us for the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Rabun Rendezvous. This is a great event where we enjoy fellowship with old and new friends, enjoy a great meal, recognize our fellow TU chapters and youth, and raise funds for the ongoing mission of Trout Unlimited!

Come and join us at the Dillard House! We hope to see you there on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Thanks for being great supporters of the Rabun TU Chapter!

*Ray King*

Rabun Rendezvous Chair



# Rabun Rendezvous

37th  
Annual

January 20, 2024

Dillard House Conference Center

Get your tickets at the door!



Pig Pickin' at 4:30 pm  
Dinner, music, and  
silent auction following

\$50 per person  
\$25 youth under 15

 More info at [rabuntu.org](https://rabuntu.org)





## Scenes from the 36th Annual Rabun Rendezvous



*“The Rendezvous was unlike anything before or since, a gathering of uninhibited men down from the mountains. The event attracted perhaps a hundred mountain men, their Indian wives, and assorted visiting tribesmen. Amusements included gambling, drinking, storytelling – continuing day and night.”*

*Quote from [The Mountain Men](#), by George Laycock.*

**Scenes from the Fall Chapter Campout  
held Nov 8-12, 2023 at Oconee State Park**



**Prez Tammy Hopton presents  
a gift certificate on behalf of  
the Rabun Chapter to Ryan  
Foote in appreciation for his  
work as District Ranger**



**Prez Tammy Hopton makes donations on behalf of the Rabun Chapter to other  
Chapters of items to be used in their upcoming fundraisers**



**Bruce Johnson, Foothills**



**Steve Westmoreland, Cohutta**



**Todd Kennedy, Middle GA**

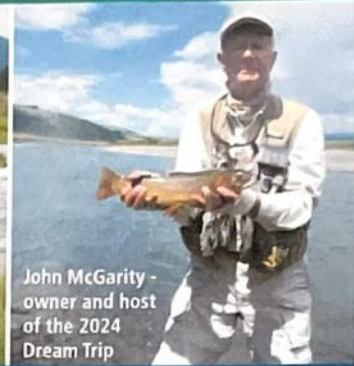
**The money raised from Dream Trip raffle sales is used to finance the Georgia  
Youth Trout Camp. Want to know more about Trout Camp?**

**Click this link for a cool video created by Guy Eroh, the Film and Video Chair-  
person on the GA Council of Trout Unlimited.**

**<https://vimeo.com/883636528/ffbf55bede?share=copy>**



# DREAM TRIP – FLY FISHING FOR TWO!



## GRAND PRIZE

John McGarity -  
owner and host  
of the 2024  
Dream Trip

"The 2024 Dream Trip reaches new heights. The opportunity to fish with John McGarity, stay in his fabulous log cabin conveniently located between the Madison River, Yellowstone National Park and the Henry's Fork puts you smack dab in the middle of some of the most famous trout waters in North America. John is the consummate trout angler, fishing almost every day during the 5 or 6 months each year he resides in Idaho. Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone checks with John for fishing reports. Having been a restaurateur, John is also an excellent cook... you will not go hungry on this trip! TU couldn't ask for a better host and guide for this year's Dream Trip."

—Jimmy Harris, owner, Unicoi Outfitters

### • 5 days hosted fishing / 6 nights lodging in Idaho July 21-26, 2024

### • \$500 total in travel expenses

- travel arrangements will be the responsibility of the winners.  
\*Fishing licenses, gratuities, and alcoholic beverages will be the responsibility of the winners during their stay.

### • Each winner receives: A float trip on the Madison River, plus choice of Winston AIR 3 wt. - 6 wt. or BILL-x 4 wt. - 8 wt. fly rod. Fly reel with Scientific Anglers or Winston Energy Fly Line and a fly box and flies for the trip. (approx. 5 - 7 dozen per box)



## Tickets \$10

Proceeds Benefit TU Cold Water Conservation and Trout Camp

### RUNNER UP PRIZES:

The winner(s) of this sweepstakes are responsible for any tax due on the value of the winnings.

- TFO - Blue Ribbon - 4 wt. 8'9", 4 piece fly rod (perfect trout rod). Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School
- A private fly-casting lesson including digital casting analysis and video analysis (this donation would apply to those having mastered basic casting skills already). Donated by the Atlanta Fly Fishing School for 2024 year.
- Witching Hour (4 hour) Trip for Bass on Lanier or Carp on the Chattahoochee in the summer. Donated by Henry Cowen. Trip must be used from end of May thru Sept. 2024.
- A half-day guided float trip for 2 on the Upper Toccoa River during the delayed harvest season. Value \$350. Donated by David & Becky Hulsey of Blue Ridge Fly Fishing School.
- Unguided half-day fishing at Nacoochee Bend for two anglers. Donated by Unicoi Outfitters.
- \$100 Gift certificate from the Mid-Georgia Chapter.
- \$100 Cabela's gift certificate donated by the Savannah River Chapter.
- Half-day trophy brown trout guided float trip for two on Chattahoochee River, valued at \$350. Donated by Chris Scalley of River Through Atlanta. [www.rivertroughatlanta.com](http://www.rivertroughatlanta.com)
- Full-day guided fly fishing wade trip for 2 people on Noontootla Creek. Donated by Noontootla Creek Farms in Blue Ridge, GA.
- Half-day trip on Warwoman Creek in Rabun County – basic fly fishing skills and introduction techniques – gear included. Donated by Shady Creek Expeditions in Clayton, GA.
- TWO DRAWS for Six Dozen Trout Flies each. Donated by the 12 TU Chapters in Georgia.



Jimmy Harris owner of Unicoi Outfitters



2023 winner Camm Swift with host John McGarity



Scan here to purchase your tickets!

For complete rules and details visit [www.georgiatu.org](http://www.georgiatu.org)



## Fishing Reports

### Fall Fishing by Nanette O'Hara

Rick and I joined Dredger for some Nantahala DH fishing recently, before the recent rains, when the streams were still low and super clear. Rick caught a grand slam (a brook, rainbow, and brown trout all caught in the same day) using nymphs under an strike indicator. I caught a few on a dry/dropper combination. Jeff caught a bunch euro nymphing, including a gorgeous brown in spawning colors. Definitely the big fish of the day!

Rick and I also fished the Tallulah River a few times on sunny days in October and November, catching both holdover stockers and wild rainbows on elk hair caddis and stimulators as well as dry/droppers.

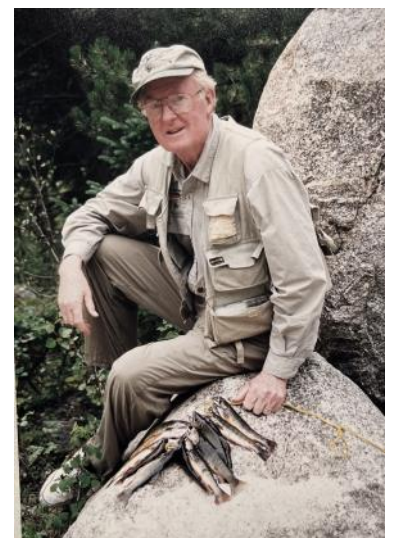


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The Rabun Chapter extends its condolences to the Gates family for the passing of Maxie Gates. Maxie was a long-time member of the Rabun Chapter. He loved his church, his family and he loved to trout fish.

The Rabun Chapter made a donation of \$50 to [Place of Hope](#) in Maxie's memory.

[Obituary for Maxie Alvin Gates | Beck Funeral Home](#)





## December Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
Blue Wing Olive and Blue Quill	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

### Pat's Rubber Legs

HOOK: # 12 2X NYMPH

THREAD: MATCH CHENILLE

BODY: MEDIUM CHENILLE (YOUR CHOICE)

LEGS: MEDIUM RUBBER LEGS

BODY: YOUR CHOICE CHENILLE



GREAT FLY TO USE ON THE DELAYED HARVEST STREAMS.

*See you on The River! Terry*

I look into my fly box and think of all the elements that I should consider in choosing the perfect fly: water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, what the fish are eating right now. Then I remember what a guide once told me: "Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about five-eighths of an inch long."

Allison Moir

## 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](#) 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

No new members this month.

Current Chapter membership: 165 adult members and 4 youth members.



## ***Prez Notes***

December is here and the Rabun Rendezvous is just around the corner! Ray King has been working diligently on the preparations for the Rendezvous. He has done a wonderful job working out the details and negotiating with the Dillard House. If you haven't already, see his message on page 3.

Since the infamous years of the pandemic, the Rabun Chapter has endured some ups and downs. We made adjustments last year. And we are back on track for another great event. But, a new challenge has been made crystal clear: the higher cost of basically everything. Unfortunately, in order to cover our costs, we have had to increase our admission fees. It is painful, but necessary.

In the past, Rabunites have pulled together and worked hard. This year's Rendezvous will be no exception. So if you want to get involved, please volunteer to help. Here are a few ways to help:

- Solicit for donations for the bucket raffle or silent auction. Be sure and check with Ray or me for the list of business that have already donated.
- Offer to help at the front door selling raffle and admission tickets.
- Help set up the bucket raffle tables and displays the day of the event.
- Come early and lend a hand arranging tables and chairs the day of the event.
- Be a greeter. Talk with everyone that comes in the door, answer questions and make sure everyone feels at home.
- Give a donation yourself: Some ideas include a guided fishing trip, baked goods, home-made items, a trip or cabin stay. Cash is especially appreciated! Be creative!

We also have an some other opportunities for you to contribute to the Rabun Chapter. There will be several upcoming vacancies in Chapter leadership positions, including for the Board of Directors and Treasurer positions. We also need someone to take on the task of Memorials, which consists of sending cards and gifts when there is a sickness or death in our Chapter family. If you are interested or need any more information about these positions, please let me know.

Please come join your Chapter friends at our upcoming annual Christmas Dinner. See page 1 for more details. It is always a relaxing, fun evening with good food and friends that is certain to get you in the holiday spirit. I'm sure you will enjoy it.

I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas!!

**Prez Tammy**