



TIGHT LINES

February 2024 Newsletter of the Rabun Chapter (522) Trout Unlimited

[CLICK HERE](#)

to visit our Award Winning Website!



The mission of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited is to conserve, protect, and restore Northeast Georgia's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

February, 2024 Rabun Chapter Meeting

"Beginner Fly Tying"

Tuesday, February 20

Shady Creek Expeditions

56 North Main Street, Clayton, GA

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

We will convene at [Shady Creek Expeditions](#) at 56 North Main Street in Clayton. Company manager and fellow Rabunite Trey McFalls will be our host. All fly tyers, from wannabe's to pros, are welcome! Trey will have two tables set up: one for beginners and the second table for just tying and fellowship.

We will be learning to tie basic patterns at the beginners table: squirmy worms, egg patterns, and pats rubberlegs.

Bring your vises and materials if you'd like. We hope that our veteran tyers will come and help Trey teach our new students. The chapter will also provide some vises and materials as well for guests who would like to try the hobby.

We'll see you at Shady Creek as we restock our fly boxes for the great fishing season ahead!



Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- Friday, February 2—Sunday, February 4. **Atlanta Fly Fishing Show.** Gas South Convention Center, Duluth, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Saturday, February 10. **Chapter 2024 Budget Planning Meeting.** *NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.* Dillard House Restaurant at 8:30 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 9.
- Tuesday, February 20. **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. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, February 27. **Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Starts at 7:00 pm. Anyone can attend. Nominations for Chapter vacancies will be discussed. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Friday, March 15. **Deadline for GA Trout Camp Applications.** See page 9 for more information.
- Friday, March 15—Sunday, March 17. **Southeast Regional Trout Unlimited Rendezvous.** Nashville, TN. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Saturday, March 16. **Conservation Project at Hardman Farms-Chattahoochee River.** Led by the GA Foothills Chapter, with Rabun Chapter among others assisting. Contact [Jeff Durniak](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, March 19. **Monthly Chapter Meeting.** Time, place, and program to be announced. A vote on the Chapter vacancies will be held. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Saturday, March 23. **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 GA Foothills Chapter President [Bruce Johnson](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, March 26. **Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Starts at 7:00 pm. Anyone can attend. The selection of the two Trout Campers the Rabun Chapter will sponsor will be done. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.

Continued next page

Important Upcoming Dates, cont. Mark Your Calendars Now!

- Saturday, April 13. **Rabunite 101—Fly Fishing for Beginners.** Location to be announced.
- Monday, April 29—Sunday, May 5. **Annual Rabun Chapter Spring Campout.** [Oconee State Park](#), Mountain Rest, SC. Make your own campsite reservations. We will use Site #93 as our gathering place for meals and fellowship. Contact [Terry Rivers](#) for more information.
- Saturday, May 4—Monday, May 6. **3 Rivers Fly Fishing Festival.** Highlands, NC. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Sunday, June 2—Friday, June 7. **GA Trout Camp.** Tallulah Falls, GA, See pages 9 and 10 or [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, July 16. **Annual Rabun Chapter Family Picnic.** Tallulah Gorge State Park Picnic Pavilion in Day Use Area, Tallulah Falls, GA.
- **No Chapter activities in the month of August.**
- Monday, November 11—Sunday, November 17. **Annual Rabun Chapter Fall Campout.** [Oconee State Park](#), Mountain Rest, SC. Make your own campsite reservations. We will use Site #93 as our gathering place for meals and fellowship. Contact [Terry Rivers](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, December 17. **Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner.** Location to be announced.
- Saturday, Jan 25, 2025. **38th Annual Rabun Rendezvous.** Dillard House Conference Center, Dillard, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Nominations to be Voted On During March Meeting

The Rabun Chapter Board of Directors respectfully submits the following slate of officers to fill upcoming vacancies on the Chapter Leadership roster. Any Chapter member may nominate any other qualified persons to these positions. A vote for these positions will occur at the upcoming March Chapter meeting.

<u>Position</u>	<u>To Serve Through</u>	<u>Name</u>
Treasurer	March, 2027	Ray King*
Director	March, 2028	Ken Kellerman

*Ray will continue his duties as Fundraising Chair, in addition to serving as Treasurer.

Scenes from the 37th Annual Rabun Rendezvous



<https://youtu.be/BWR8sAxsBQg?feature=shared>

Preliminary Results from the 37th Annual Rabun Rendezvous

Attendance: 168 adults and 3 youth

Net Receipts: \$10,000.00

Way to go, Rabunites! Waaa Hooo!!!

Rendezvous Report

Ray King, Fundraising Chairperson

Thanks to all who made the 2024 Rabun Rendezvous successful!

The Rabun TU Chapter celebrated our 37th Annual Rabun Rendezvous this year! I suppose we could up the count to 172, if we include the visit from “Ol’ Man Winter” who chose to drop extreme cold on us this year. It was cold, but at least it was not raining or snowing. A couple of adjustments were made so that everyone could stay safe and avoid the cold as much as possible. We endured the cold weather, ate delicious food, “tapped our toes” to excellent Bluegrass music and had great fellowship.

Thanks to the Dillard House for their set-up, great food, and excellent service! Special thanks to the FoxFire Boys for providing the great Bluegrass music! It was enjoyed by the 171 in attendance. We saw a lot of familiar faces, touched base with friends, and met new folks in attendance. We felt the presence of the missing, but not forgotten members of our TU family in “Around the Bend.” We are indeed blessed to be part of a community who love the outdoors.

This year’s Young Of the Year award was presented to Sawyer Maddux, by Georgia Council TU Chair, Rodney Tumlin. Some of Sawyer’s accomplishments include:

- *President of the North Paulding fly fishing and cold-water conservation club (Been a member for 7 years)
- *Youth mentor at trout camp
- *Recently elected to the board of directors for the Cohutta chapter
- *2-time teen summit summiteer (1 time captain)
- *Paid intern for TU and FFI
- *Social media head for TUTEENS
- *Represented GA TU and TUTEENS at the Atlanta Fly Fishing Show

Thanks to all who were able to attend the Rabun Rendezvous! Those of you who were not there, missed a great time and we hope to see you next year. Come be part of our community!

A special thank you is due to all the volunteers from the Rabun TU Chapter who donated their time and resources to make this year’s Rabun Rendezvous a success. They worked tirelessly to solicit great donations from our friends and businesses who support the TU efforts, participated in the event set-up, and worked as runners in the Silent Auction and Bucket Raffles and staffed the Registration desk. We even had several new faces from our college and university system helping! I cannot thank you enough.

A special thank you is offered to all the individuals, organizations and businesses who made donations to this year’s Rabun Rendezvous. We offer our thanks for your assistance both in advertising and financial support of the Rendezvous through your generous donations.

Rabun Rendezvous Donor List

The Doug Adams estate; The Adams Family - Eedee Adams; Allison Adams; Brooks, Amanda, Avril and Calder Adams; Jonny Amrine (Amrine Equipment & Rentals, Clayton, GA); Apple Mountain Golf Club (Clarkesville, GA, Eldon Meeks); Mack Martin (Atlanta Fly Fishing School); Kathy and Charlie Breithaupt; The Big Green Egg, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) – Special thanks to Maria Rodeghiero; Black Rock Buddies Group (Black Rock State Park, Mountain City, GA); Blue Ridge Activity and Tumbling Center (Mountain City, GA); Blue Ridge Honey Company (Lakemont, GA); Brookings Fly Shop (Cashiers or Highlands, NC); Chic-Fil-A (Clayton, GA); Cloud 9 Salon (Clayton, GA); Michele and Broderick Crawford (Crawford Art Gallery, Clayton, GA); Currahee Brewing Company (Clayton, GA); John Dillard, Jr., Jessica Robinson, Louise Dillard and Natalie Dillard Cross (Dillard House and Staff); Jeff Durniak; Duvall's Car Wash (Clayton, GA); Bill England; Farmhouse Market Restaurant (Clayton, GA, Vince Scafiti); Fish Tales Outfitters & Guide Service (Franklin, NC, Ernie King); The FoxFire Boys (Wayne Gipson, Mike Hamilton, Steve McCall, Tom Nixon, Dean English, Filmer Kilby) Ray Gentry; Carla Gignilliat Art (Chamblee, GA); Griffiths Circle – TU National; Hatch Camp & Art Farm (Scott Low, Clayton, GA); Highland Hiker (Highlands, NC); Hillside Orchard Farms (Tiger, GA); Tammy and Pat Hopton; Steve Hudson; Holly and Derek Maddox; Holly-Beth Organics (Clayton, GA); The Home Depot (Clayton, GA); Ishy's Grill (Clayton, GA); Mama G's (Clayton, GA); Mane Design (Dillard, GA); John McGarity; Will Mohr; Rick O'Hara; Emaly Rivera and Georgia Women Fly Fishers; Moonrise Distillery (Clayton, GA); Susan and Frank Patton; Julian F. Patton; Bob Pickens Knives (Tiger, GA); Dale Powell; Corey Page – Reeves Building Supply (Clayton, GA); Jeff Houston and Lewis Reeves (Reeves Outdoors – Clayton, GA); River Through Atlanta – Chattahoochee Guide Service (Atlanta, GA); Terry Rivers; Maria Rodeghiero; Max's Lakehouse (Lakemont, GA); Moonrise Distillery (Clayton, GA); Mountain Grill (Clayton, GA); Outdoor 76 (Clayton, GA & Franklin, NC); Wayne Prosser; R. M. Rose Distillers (Dillard, GA, Joe Godfrey); The Rusty Bike Café (Clayton, GA); Salon 259 (Clayton, GA); Savannah River Chapter TU; Seehorn Family Farms (Rabun Gap, GA); Senor Pastor Cuisine at Mama Gail's (Lakemont, GA); Mike Sobaski; Shady Creek Expeditions (Trey McFalls, Clayton, GA); Sky Valley Country Club (Sky Valley, GA); Smithgall Woods State Park (Will Wagner, GM); Sunday Diner (Clayton, GA); Tallulah 1882 (Tallulah Falls, GA); Tiger Mountain Winery (Tiger, GA); Timpson Creek Gallery (Clayton, GA); Frank Tolbert; TU Headwaters Youth Program – TU National; The Russ Tyre Estate; Jake Darling and Jimmy Harris (Unicoi Outfitters, Helen, GA); Unicoi State Park & Lodge (Bill Mish, GM); Jared Walker; Brian Weeks and Kent Wilson.

Thank you, Donors! We appreciate your support of Rabun TU!

All donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501(c)3 non-profit) are tax deductible.

EDITORIALS & OPINION

Rome News-Tribune

OUR 181ST YEAR OF SERVICE: 1843-2024

Otis A. Brumby III, President Lee B. Garrett, General Manager

John Bailey, Executive Editor

Doug Crow, VP of Operations

TALKING TROUT ■ PAUL DIPRIMA

Rendezvous follow-up and the 'Young of the Year'

The first thing I must say is if you were not at the Rendezvous, you missed a great time and a lot of wonderful trout folks. The Dillard House was full of people enjoying each other's company as they walked around the prize room with hands full of tickets for the bucket raffle. The buckets quickly filled with chances for pies, cakes, jars of mountain honey, fishing rods, flies, lures and maps of secret Rabun County fishing holes, just to mention a few of the prizes. The silent auction had bid sheets and the bids were constantly rising for guided fishing on private water, antique fly rods and other great prizes too numerous to mention.

The weather was not a factor. The roads were clear with no ice and not a snowflake to be seen. Sure it was cold outside, but all the action was indoors. The Dillard House conference room was large enough to accommodate all the TU folks and their supporters and the fireplaces at either end of the building kept all of us warm and active. Friends from around Georgia and other southern states enjoyed the great spread of meats, fish, vegetables and salads. The cakes and pies on the dessert table were unbelievably good. You should have been there, so don't miss next year's Rendezvous.



Council Chairman Rodney Tumlin at this year's Rendezvous. I will give a little history before I introduce you to Sawyer and his accomplishments.

Around eight years ago, science teacher Tumlin decided to try to get more young folks involved with TU. He had already started several Trout In the Classroom programs but hoped to get some of his Paulding County High School kids involved with trout, fly fishing and working with TU in the out of doors. TU had recently started a program called the Five Rivers Clubs where TU chapters could help college kids get involved with fly fishing and conservation. Rodney said why not try it on the high school level, and he did. He called it the North Paulding High School Fly Fishing & Cold Water Conservation Club.

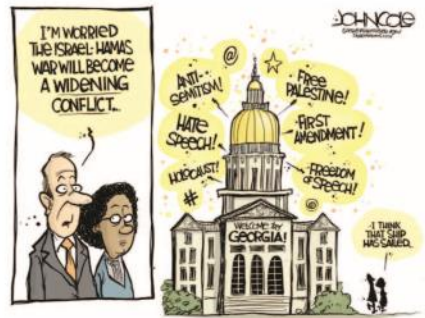
A young angler still in middle school, Sawyer Maddux, learned about the Five Rivers Club and even though he was too young for high school, he was welcomed and became the youngest member of the club. Sawyer is now a senior at North Paulding High and has been active in the club for seven years — three in middle school and four in high school. He applied for and was accepted to the University of Georgia's fisheries program.

A great fly caster, Sawyer worked as a Young Mentor at TU's Georgia Trout Camp. Sawyer was also a member of the TU National Teen Summit and Leadership Conference for two years and was team leader for one year. He has worked as a volunteer for his local Trout Unlimited chapter and the Georgia Council of TU. This guy is willing to do almost anything, including working at the Atlanta Fly Fishing Show as a volunteer for TU Teens and the Georgia Council. Sawyer is not only a trout guy, he has also been a member of the North Paulding High School Bass Team. This remarkable young man is now a paid intern with Trout Unlimited and to my knowledge may be the only one in high school.

Sawyer has shown commitment to the goals of TU. His love of the environment and dedication to preserving, protecting and enhancement of trout streams and their watersheds is hard to match, even by adults. It is no wonder that Sawyer Maddux was chosen from all the youths nominated to receive the Trout Unlimited Young of the Year award for 2023.

Paul DiPrima of the Trout Unlimited Cohutta Chapter can be reached at PaulDiPrima@aol.com. The opinions in Talking Trout are his own. Unless specifically stated, they do not reflect the thoughts or policies of TU or

THE DRAWING BOARD



El Zarape has been serving customers since December 1982, long before a rush of other Mexican restaurants entered the market.

AROUND TOWN

SOCIAL MEDIA NAILS IT; ALMOST 50% MORE MEXICAN RESTAURANTS HERE VS. U.S. AVERAGE. BUC-EE'S ADDING CAR WASH

All those social media sociologists stand vindicated...at least on this one point.

Recent **Around Town** headlines have included two new Mexican restaurants: The second **Antigua** in Shannon as well as **El Rancho** in Armuchee Village.

And with each, we heard the usual chorus from keyboard critics stating "like we need another Mexican restaurant..."

They may have facts to back them up. This month, the **Pew Research Center** — among the world's finest — and a few collaborators discovered that one in 10 restaurants in the United States serve Mexican food.

And while North Georgia is on the national radar, the top two states — naturally — are California followed by Texas, and then Florida, New York and Illinois. But what about local stats? No "poblanos."

We checked with **Dr. Tim Allee**, environmental health director for the state's **Northwest Health District** and the region's expert on restaurant health inspections.

Public Health inspects 318 restaurants and food trucks in all of Floyd County, Allee says. Of those, 46 are Mexican (including fast-food spots such as **Taco Bell** and **Del Taco**).

That means almost 14.5% of dining spots in our county — traditional and mobile — feature Mexican cuisine.

That's a lot of Mexican options today — but think back 41-plus years ago when mainstay **El Zarape** was opening at 429 Broad St. in downtown Rome. It remains one of the best in town.

BUC-EE'S CRASHING CAR WASH CRAZE

Looking for a way to get rid of all those crumbs from another bag of **Buc-ee's** nuggets consumed as you get back to your car outside the store in Calhoun? Problem solved.

Northwest Georgia's fascination with car washes is about to get upzized. Amid all our "auto spa" openings, closings and changes in recent years, a surprise is on the way. All that construction adjacent to Buc-ee's means the Texas retailer is adding a car wash.

It will join seven others already in service in Alabama, Tennessee and Texas. All permits are in hand and development is well underway. **Berry Construction** is on the job; the company worked as **Berry Hutton** on the massive store and fuel farm that opened off I-75 and Union Grove just over three years ago.

We don't know a lot of the details; our corporate emails have yet to be answered. Buc-ee's website tells of how a Tennessee venue has "the world's longest car wash" at 255 feet. The washes generally are open from 7 a.m. until 8 or 10 p.m.

Other details: Last year, the company was advertising for a car wash manager in Calhoun, paying \$125,000 a year. No other positions were posted as of Thursday.

The car wash is the company's latest investment in Georgia. The news comes as the chain announces a Brunswick campus is on the way off I-95, joining Calhoun and Warner Robins.

POPCORN & POLITICS

Hufstetter goes practical, not high gloss: The No. 1 issue we heard last year was the higher appraised value of local homes. You read about the complaints and appeals. Now state Sen. **Chuck Hufstetter**, R-Rome, who chairs the Finance Committee, has a plan.

Basically, it caps annual increases in property value assessments at 3%. Says Hufstetter: "My intent on this bill is to protect people who want to stay in their home — retirees, people on fixed incomes — and not be subject to massive tax increases."



Buc-ee's; The Calhoun Times

The massive store and fueling center already dominates Calhoun just off I-75 and Union Grove. Buc-ee's is now adding another big draw — a car wash next to the store and fuel farm.



Dan Jancoska/TD Sports

Atlanta Braves relief pitcher Collin McHugh (32) pitches against the Chicago White Sox at Truist Park on July 16, 2023.

Once again, the Legislature's Mr. Cool sees an issue and tackles it as opposed to those throwing useless dialogue at flavor-of-the-month headline-grabbers in search of I/Me/My notice.

Speaking of...

"I told you so." With all these new **Fani Willis** accusations surfacing, does it mean state Sen. **Colton Moore**, R-Trenton, was on to something with his premature, Trump-protecting foot-stomping and calls for a special legislative session?

Not then, but maybe now, as another legislator is calling for action. Moore, in reaction, was quoted by the **AJC** as stating, "We have a solution to investigate Fani Willis," he said. "And if you don't mind just telling your readers: I told you so."

Classy.

Calendar:

♦ **Floyd County Republican Women:** 11:30 a.m. lunch, noon meeting Feb. 1 at the Palladium. Guest: **Joel Thornton**.

♦ **Floyd Democrats plot 2024 races:** The **Floyd County Democratic Party** meets at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 1 at the South Rome Community Center, 607 Pennington Ave. Agenda: Offices up for election this year and how to qualify.

PEAKS & VALLEYS

The highs and lows of Northwest Georgia

Peak to doing things the old-fashioned way: A Between the Rivers resident was curious about the ongoing silence from the landmark Clocktower. She called city government to find the employee on the other end of the line who was unaware of the issue — but likewise was immediately responsive. An electrician was notified, and by 10 that night the Clocktower was chiming away. Like clockwork, right? She says she's had pretty good luck with fixing potholes, too.

Valley to the start of the 2024 baseball season: With spring training just a few weeks away, we've already seen one local face — former **Berry ace Collin McHugh** — retire while **Charlie Culberson** is hoping to rejoin the Braves as a relief pitcher. The projected roster still has some dominant Rome Braves alumni but there's something special about seeing local faces on TV or at the ballpark.

Around Town publishes each Tuesday and Friday in the *Rome News-Tribune*. Comments and news tips can be shared by sending an email to jdruckermiller@RN-T.com.



Sen. Chuck Hufstetter

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
- 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

Do You Know of a Youth That Wants to go to Trout Camp?

Each year the Rabun Chapter sponsors two youth to attend the Georgia Trout Camp. The Trout Camp is run by the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited with support from all twelve chapters. The 2024 Trout Camp will be held June 2-7 at the Tallulah Falls School, in Tallulah Falls, GA.

Trout Camp is for boys and girls between the ages of 13-15 where they learn and practice the sport of flyfishing, study sound conservation practices, and enjoy a fun and rewarding experience!

For more information on Trout Camp, visit the Georgia Council website [CLICK HERE](#).

To apply to Trout Camp, with the Rabun Chapter as your sponsor, fill out the application on page 10 and mail it to:

Rabun Chapter Trout Unlimited
PO Box 371
Clayton, GA 30525

Applications for the Rabun Chapter sponsorship must be received by March 15, 2024.





Georgia Trout Camp 2024 Application

Please fill out the application below and give it to your local TU Chapter President.

Dates: June 2-7 (Sunday – Friday) Age: 13 – 15 years Fee: \$700.00

Includes room, board, and all activities for the five-day camp. In May, after your signed application and fee have been received, you will be sent a list of what to bring, as well as the required health and release forms. Please make your check payable to the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited. By submitting this application, the camper, if accepted, is committed to attending camp for the entire session.

**Deadline to apply: Set by each Chapter – Check with your local TU Chapter for details.
The application and payment must be in the Camp Coordinator's office by April 15th.**

(Please Print)

Name _____

Name you wish to be called by _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Age at time of camp _____ Male _____ Female _____
(Must be within the ages of 13 – 15 at time of camp)

T-Shirt size (adult size only; circle one) S M L XL

I have a friend attending camp and we would like to room together.

His/her name is _____

Yes, my child is interested in conservation and the sport of fly fishing and has reached a level of maturity to enjoy spending 6 days and 5 nights away from home at camp.

Parent or guardian's signature

Print: Parent or guardian's name _____

Home Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Parent's Email _____ Parent's Emergency Phone _____

I am sponsored by: (each camper must be sponsored by one of the 12 TU Chapters in GA)

The _____ Chapter of TU

President/Chapter or Trout Camp Representative

Signature

After completion – the application and fee will be forwarded by the sponsoring Chapter to the Camp Coordinator

Charlie Breithaupt, GA Trout Camp Coordinator 194 Kitchens Lane Clayton, GA 30525

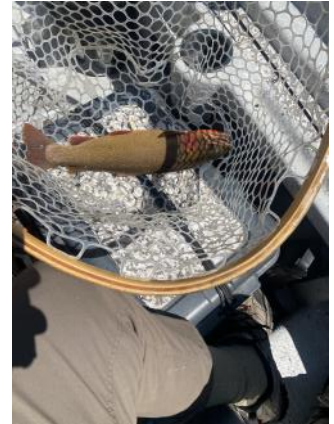
For more information call: (706) 782-6954 or email: knc615@windstream.net

For information on the 12 TU chapters in GA go to www.georgiatu.org

Fishing Reports

Snake River 2023 and Rabun Reminiscing, submitted by Don "Broken Knee" Atkinson

Editor's Note: Many of the old-time Rabun Chapter members will remember Don. He was a dear friend of Doug Adams and a fixture at the early Klondike Enterprises campouts at the Double Bit Camp. He continues to be a valued Rabun Chapter member. I have kept in touch with Don through the years. Don and his wife, Sally, currently live in Sylvania, OH.



Pat, here are a few representative photo samples from our fishing trip this summer, Fourth of July week, on the Snake River. We floated from Swan Valley, ID downstream about 30 miles over a two-day period.

It was uncrowded, almost nobody else on the river. The weather was beautiful and by pure luck it was the peak of the salmon fly hatch! The flies were everywhere as you can see from the picture of my fishing hat.

The river in that area is very big water and guides are for sure recommended. We landed all the fish we wanted to catch. Then just a quick photo and release.

The other angler pictured here is Rick Hires. He fished many years ago with Doug Adams, Jim Nixon, me, and a few other folks at the Double Bit Camp.

Continued next page.

Fishing Reports, cont.

Snake River 2023 and Rabun Reminiscing, submitted by Don “Broken Knee” Atkinson

You may have heard the story of the Dual Blue Leaf Stake plant? That’s quite a story and either Jim or Tom Nixon could probably tell it also. It involves Rick, me, Adams, Nixon, and several others. Early one morning some biologist (*Editors note: it was Ben Sanders, biologist for the USFS.*) came wandering into camp looking for an unusual plant he had heard was in the area. (*Ed note again: the plant he was looking for was the [small-whorled pogonia](#).*) Now none of us knew what he was talking about or where that plant was located, but Jim Nixon immediately saw an opportunity to play a joke. He said that he knew of another, very rare plant, growing in the area. In fact, it was so rare that only the old time mountain folks knew about it. It was called the Dual Blue Leaf Stake plant. The biologist got really excited because this was a new one to him and he begged Jim to take him to see those plants. So off they went, far up the steep mountainside, through rhododendron thickets over rock cliffs, back and forth, until finally coming up on the elusive plant!

Well, they were wooden stakes pounded into the ground, with blue plastic surveyors tape tied around them! Obviously something done by the Forest Service in an earlier time, for who knows what purpose? As you can expect, the biologist was quite embarrassed for having fallen for the joke and we all had a good laugh at his expense.

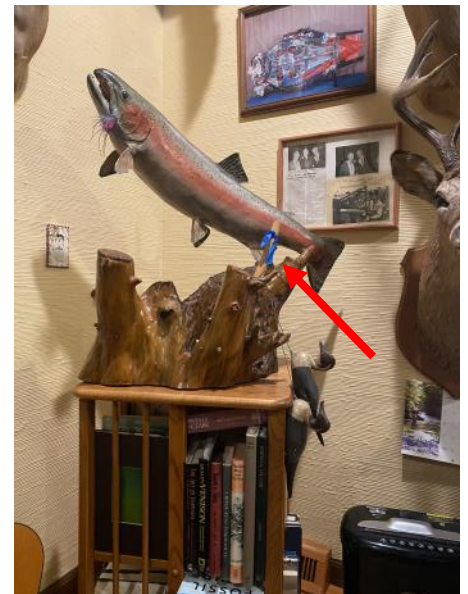
But Ben Sanders could take a joke and became a good friend of the Rabunites. He often made it a point to come to the Klondike campouts in later years. And for years afterward he never missed a chance to tell the story of the elusive Dual Blue Leaf Stake plant, found only in the wilds of Rabun County. There was a large contingent of Rabunites at his [funeral in 2009](#).

I have right behind me in my home office an original specimen of the Dual Blue Leaf Stake plant. The plant is located inside the burned out sycamore stump underneath my first ever steelhead that I caught in Michigan many years ago.

Oh, how many stories there are! Wahoo!! Is that the way you say it? Adams always accused me of not being able to yell that because he said Yankees can’t yell like that. He may be right.

Thanks to you and Tammy and others for passing it forward and keeping the memories alive. We can’t see around the bend. But occasionally I think I hear a few rapids downriver.

Tight Lines, Don and Sally Atkinson



February Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
Black Stonefly	All month	Late am to Mid pm	18-20 Black Elk Hair Caddis or Griffiths Gnat 16-18 Black Stone Nymph or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Small Dun Caddis	Late month	Late am to Mid pm	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis 18 Hairs Ear Nymph
Quill Gordon	Late month	Late am to Mid pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph
Blue Wing Olive 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

WD 40

HOOK: #14-20 Scud Hook

TAIL: Wood Duck Fibers

BODY: Grey Thread

THORAX: Grey Dubbing

WING CASE: Wood Duck Flanks

HEAD: Grey Thread or Silver Tungsten Bead



Great fly to use anytime during the winter months as a dropper.

See you on The River! Terry

**When you are next complaining about the selectivity of trout, bear the thought in mind:
were it not for this fortunate trait, how long would our stream fishing last?**

Art Flick's Streamside Guide (1947)

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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

Fundraising Chair

Director thru 03/24

Director thru 03/25

Director thru 03/26

Director thru 03/27

Non-Voting Leaders

[Jerry McFalls](#)

[Pat Hopton](#)

[Pat Hopton](#)

Scouts Liaison

Tight Lines Editor

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: 170 adult members and 4 youth members.

Prez Notes

Rendezvous 2024 is in the books!

It was a great success, thanks to Ray King. If you don't know, Ray is our Fundraising Committee Chairperson. The Rendezvous occurs one evening in January, but Ray works all year to make it happen. This was the first year I had a front row seat in the preparation of the Rendezvous. I learned a lot in the process. There are a multiple steps in planning and implementing our yearly fundraiser. Most of us never know what it takes to bring it to fruition. If you want to lend a hand next year, contact Ray. I'm sure he can give you a job!

Our budget meeting is February 10th at the Dillard House. During this meeting we decide how our money is going to be used throughout the year. We want to be good stewards of the money we raise so careful consideration is made when deciding how to use these funds. We aim to keep our funds light on administrative and social use. Most of the funds should go to what we are striving for: conservation, education and outreach. If you have some suggestions please join us or send your ideas to me. I will pass it along.

We are changing up our meetings, so the next few months should be interesting. Keep your eye on Tightlines, FB and our website so you know when and where we will be meeting next!

February 20th we will meet at Shady Creek store in downtown Clayton for Fly Tying with Trey McFalls. I've never tried fly tying so I am looking forward to giving it a shot! Hope to see you there!

Prez Tammy