



# **TIGHT LINES**

## **March 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.

## **March, 2024 Rabun Chapter Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 19**

**Fellowship Hall of Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church**

**8397 Wolfork Road, Rabun Gap, GA**

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

### **“Matching Our Springtime Hatches”**

“Happy New Dry Fly Season,” our dearly departed chapter founder, Doug Adams, would exclaim with great joy each March. Join fellow Rabunite Jeff “Dredger” Durniak as he shares forty years of springtime trout intel with us. His “Spring Dries and Droppers” PowerPoint program will share the monthly flies, times, locations, and techniques to enhance our trout catch rates from March through May.

If you're a fan of rising spring trout, then don't miss this program. Chapter members guests alike are all welcome.



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

- Saturday, March 9. **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE. Conservation Project at Hardman Farms-Chattahoochee River.** Led by the GA Foothills Chapter, with Rabun Chapter among others assisting. Rain date will be March 12. Contact [Jeff Durniak](#) for more information.
- Friday, March 15. **Deadline for GA Trout Camp Applications.** See pages 4 and 5 for more information.
- Friday, March 15 - Sunday, March 17. **Southeast Regional Trout Unlimited Rendezvous.** Nashville, TN. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Saturday, March 16. **GA Council TU Quarterly Meeting.** To be held in Blue Ridge, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, March 19. **Monthly Chapter Meeting.** Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Social starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Jeff Durniak will present the program "Matching our Springtime Hatches". A vote on Chapter vacancies will be held. See pages 1 and 18 or 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, beginning 5:30 pm. The winner of the 2024 Dream Trip Raffle will be announced. See page 7 for more information.
- Saturday, March 23. **Sweep the Hooch.** Annual trash pickup along the Chattahoochee River. Sponsored by Chattahoochee Riverkeeper. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Saturday, March 23. **Spring Sweep on the Chattooga River.** Annual trash pickup along the Chattooga River. Sponsored by the US Forest Service. Meet at the US Hwy 76 bridge at 9:00 am. See page 11 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 one Trout Camper the Rabun Chapter will sponsor, plus alternates, will be done. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Friday, April 12. **Chattooga River Roundup.** Annual fundraiser for the Chattooga River Chapter. Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 6:00 pm. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Saturday, April 13. **Rabunite 101—Fly Fishing for Beginners.** To be held at the Rabun County Recreation Center, Lower Gymnasium, Hwy 441 South. 8:30 am - 1:00 pm. Cost is \$25. For more information see page 8.
- 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](#) or see page 9 for more information.

## **Important Upcoming Dates, cont. Mark Your Calendars Now!**

- Thursday, May 2 - Saturday, May 4. **3 Rivers Fly Fishing Festival.** Highlands, NC. [CLICK HERE](#) or see page 12 for more information.
- Thursday, May 16. **Upper Reed Creek Stream Improvement Work Project.** Meet at the Double Bit Dispersed Camping Area located off the Burrells Ford Road at 8:30 am. To be held in partnership with the GA DNR and USFS. Contact [Steve Perry](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, May 21. **Hot Dog Cook-Out and Fishing.** Meet at the parking area on GA side of the Burrells Ford Bridge at 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm. Bring a chair and a side dish. Please RSVP to [Charlie or Kathy Breithaupt](#) by May 17. Trout fishing before and after dinner. *This will be our May Chapter meeting.*
- Sunday, June 2 - Friday, June 7. **Georgia Trout Camp.** Tallulah Falls School, Tallulah Falls, GA. Sponsored by the GA Council Trout Unlimited. See pages 4 and 5 or [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Saturday, June 8. **Tallulah River Kids Fishing Event.** Meet at Tallulah River Campground. 9:00 am - 12:00pm. Contact [Frank Patton](#) to volunteer to help.
- 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.

## **Are You Interested in Learning How to Tie Flies?**

Rabun Chapter member Terry Rivers has graciously offered to hold fly tying classes at his house in the coming months. If you are interested in learning to tie flies, this would be a great opportunity to learn from one of the best.

The classes will be limited in size due to space considerations so don't hesitate signing up if you are interested in attending. Contact Terry directly at (770) 595-2640 or [tlr1121@windstream.net](mailto:tlr1121@windstream.net).





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

Each year the Rabun Chapter sponsors one youth to attend the Georgia Trout Camp. The Rabun Chapter will pay for all tuition and fees except \$50.00, which the camper pays.

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 5 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.***



Want to know more? [CLICK HERE!](#)



## 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 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**(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**

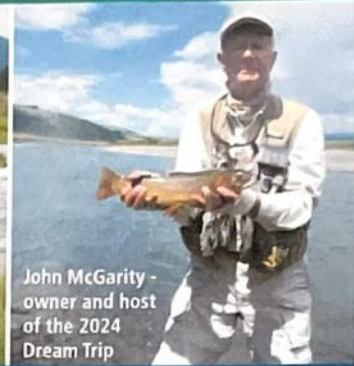
Charlie Breithaupt, GA Trout Camp Coordinator 194 Kitchens Lane Clayton, GA 30525

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

For information on the 12 TU chapters in GA go to [www.georgiatu.org](http://www.georgiatu.org)



# 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)



# FOOTHILLS CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

JOIN US AT OUR FUNDRAISER

## “HOOT ON THE HOOCH 2024”



SATURDAY, MARCH 23<sup>th</sup>, 2024—DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM

HELENDORF INN—33 MUNICH STRASSE—HELEN, GA—(706) 878-2271

BBQ—BLUEGRASS—BOILED PEANUTS (The 3 B's of the South)

AUCTIONS & RAFFLES (Silent Auction & Buckets)

FISHING ON THE HOOCH

DREAM TRIP DRAWING

\$40 ADMISSION (\$20 FOR AGE 21 AND UNDER)

GOOD FRIENDS—GREAT TIME—HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

**WE GIVE A “HOOT”**

**TAKE A KID FISHING**





# FLY-FISHING SEMINAR

[www.rabuntu.org](http://www.rabuntu.org)

- Ever wanted to try your hand at fly-fishing for trout but never learned the in's and out's of it?
- Ever wonder why some people seem to get so "hooked" on it?

Now's your chance! The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited is planning a half-day fly-fishing seminar for adults (male and female 16 years and older). The seminar will cover equipment, casting, knots and entomology (the bugs we imitate for fish to eat).

Instructors include local experts for a hands-on learning experience that will be helpful and fun.

**WHAT: Beginning Fly-Fishing Seminar "Rabunite 101"**

**WHEN: Saturday - April 13, 2024 8:30 am until 1:00 pm**

**WHERE: The Rabun County Recreation Center Lower Gym.  
On highway 441 near Rabun County Middle & High School complex.**

**HOW MUCH? Cost is only \$25**

**WANT TO SIGN UP??? FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!  
The session is limited to 28 participants.**

**Send the form below along with your check made payable to:**

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Attn: Charlie Breithaupt

194 Kitchens Lane

Clayton, GA 30525 [knc615@windstream.net](mailto:knc615@windstream.net) (706) 782-6954

*You will receive notification when you have been registered.*

Please Print **(NEATLY!)** Yes, I want to attend the fly-fishing seminar!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



## Rabun Chapter 2024 Spring Campout

**When:** Monday, April 29 through Sunday, May 5.

**Where:** [Oconee State Park](#), Mountain Rest, SC

**Who:** All Chapter members and guests are invited!  
Bring a friend!

**Details:** The Chapter will use Site #93 in the Wooded Loop as the “gathering spot”. Meals will be taken there along with story telling around the campfire at night.

Campers should contact the [Park](#) and make their own campsite reservations. There are a variety of sites available, including furnished cabins, tent only sites, and campsites with full hookups.

We will eat breakfast and supper together at Site #93. Lunch is on your own. We need volunteers to cook suppers and breakfasts (except Friday supper).

If you volunteer to cook a meal then all other meals are free of charge to you. If you do not cook a meal, then you pay the cook \$5.00 for each meal that you eat. What a deal! The Chapter will provide stoves, paper plates, silverware, cups. Even if you don't camp, come by to eat a meal or sit around the campfire!

Friday night will be a communal steak and baked potato supper. Everyone bring your own steak and potato. The Chapter will have the grill and hot charcoal ready for you to grill your own steak!

We need an accurate head count of who will be at the campout and what meals you will eat. This is needed for the cooks to adequately purchase and prepare the meals.

For other activities during the campout you may explore the Park, hike to nearby scenic waterfalls, photograph spring wildflowers, visit nearby Cashiers, NC, or fish the many streams in the Tri-State area. Remember to carry the appropriate State fishing license!

To sign up to cook a meal or to say you are coming, contact the Campout Coordinator [Terry Rivers](#).



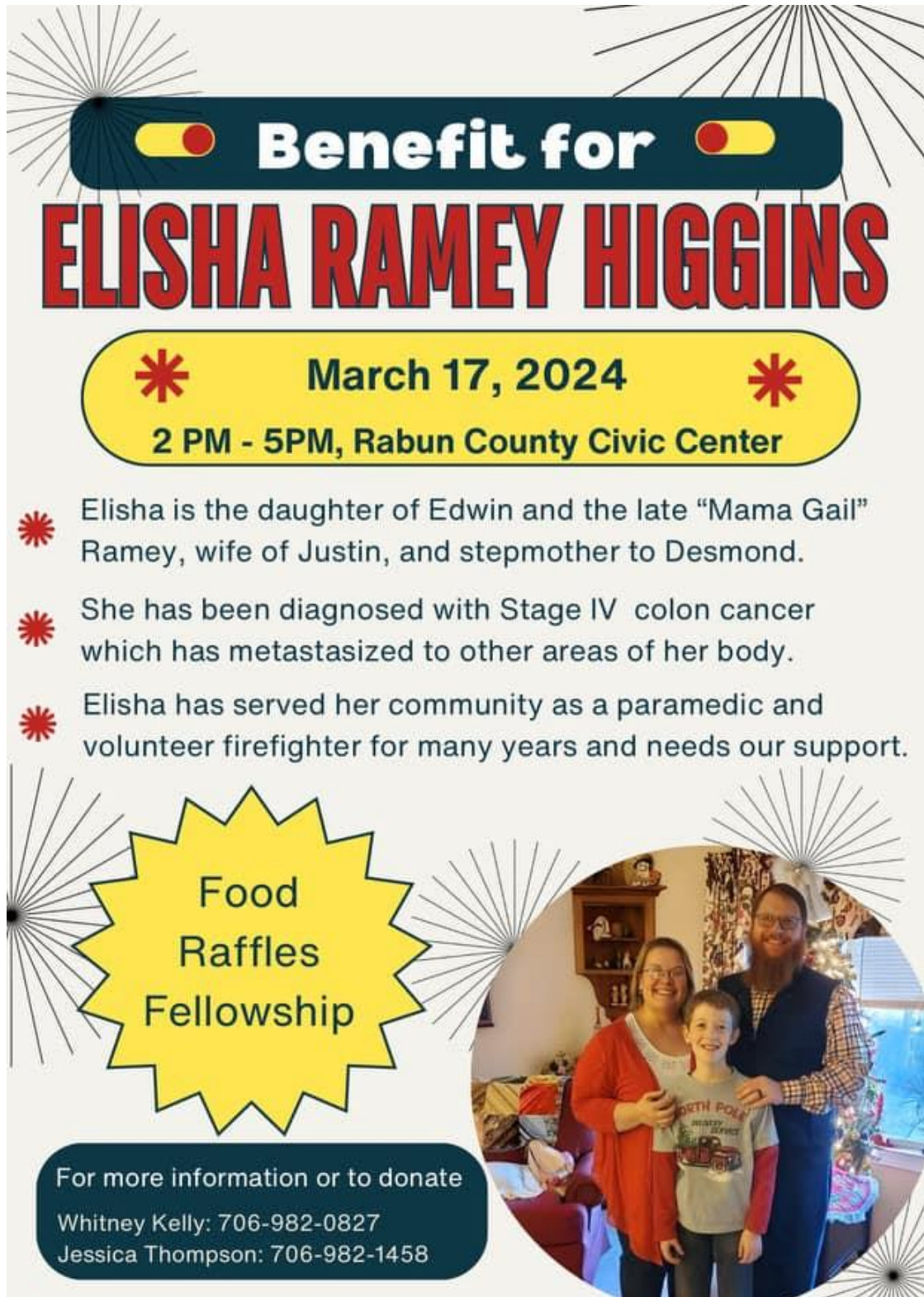
Far from the luxuries of home, camping forces a slower, more thoughtful approach to living. Mornings are savored. Coffee is sipped rather than drained. Making meals is less a chore and more an event. An evening stroll replaces the nightly TV hypnosis. In short, for a few fleeting days, we are briefly, blissfully, beautifully human again.

*Mark Kenyon, [The MeatEater Crew](#)*

## A Fellow TU Member in Need

Elisha Ramey Higgins is a native of Rabun County and grew up fishing the local trout streams with her Daddy. She recently took an interest in fly fishing and attended the Rabunite 101 session in 2023. She and her husband, Justin, live in Habersham County and are members of the GA Foothills Chapter.

*Elisha needs our support.* Please consider helping in anyway you can.



The poster features a dark blue header with a yellow toggle switch icon on the left and right. The text "Benefit for" is in white, and "ELISHA RAMEY HIGGINS" is in large, bold, red letters. Below this is a yellow oval containing a red asterisk, the date "March 17, 2024", another red asterisk, and the time and location "2 PM - 5PM, Rabun County Civic Center". Three red asterisks precede three bullet points: "Elisha is the daughter of Edwin and the late 'Mama Gail' Ramey, wife of Justin, and stepmother to Desmond.", "She has been diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer which has metastasized to other areas of her body.", and "Elisha has served her community as a paramedic and volunteer firefighter for many years and needs our support." A yellow starburst shape contains the text "Food Raffles Fellowship". At the bottom left, a dark blue rounded rectangle contains the text "For more information or to donate", "Whitney Kelly: 706-982-0827", and "Jessica Thompson: 706-982-1458". On the bottom right is a circular photo of Elisha, Justin, and their son standing in front of a Christmas tree.

**Benefit for**

**ELISHA RAMEY HIGGINS**

**March 17, 2024**

**2 PM - 5PM, Rabun County Civic Center**

- Elisha is the daughter of Edwin and the late "Mama Gail" Ramey, wife of Justin, and stepmother to Desmond.
- She has been diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer which has metastasized to other areas of her body.
- Elisha has served her community as a paramedic and volunteer firefighter for many years and needs our support.

**Food Raffles Fellowship**

For more information or to donate  
Whitney Kelly: 706-982-0827  
Jessica Thompson: 706-982-1458





**SUMTER National Forest**



**CHATTOOGA RIVER 50th ANNIVERSARY**

# **SPRING SWEEP**

**Join the Andrew Pickens  
Ranger District on**

**March 23rd**

**for a Chattooga River and  
District cleanup**

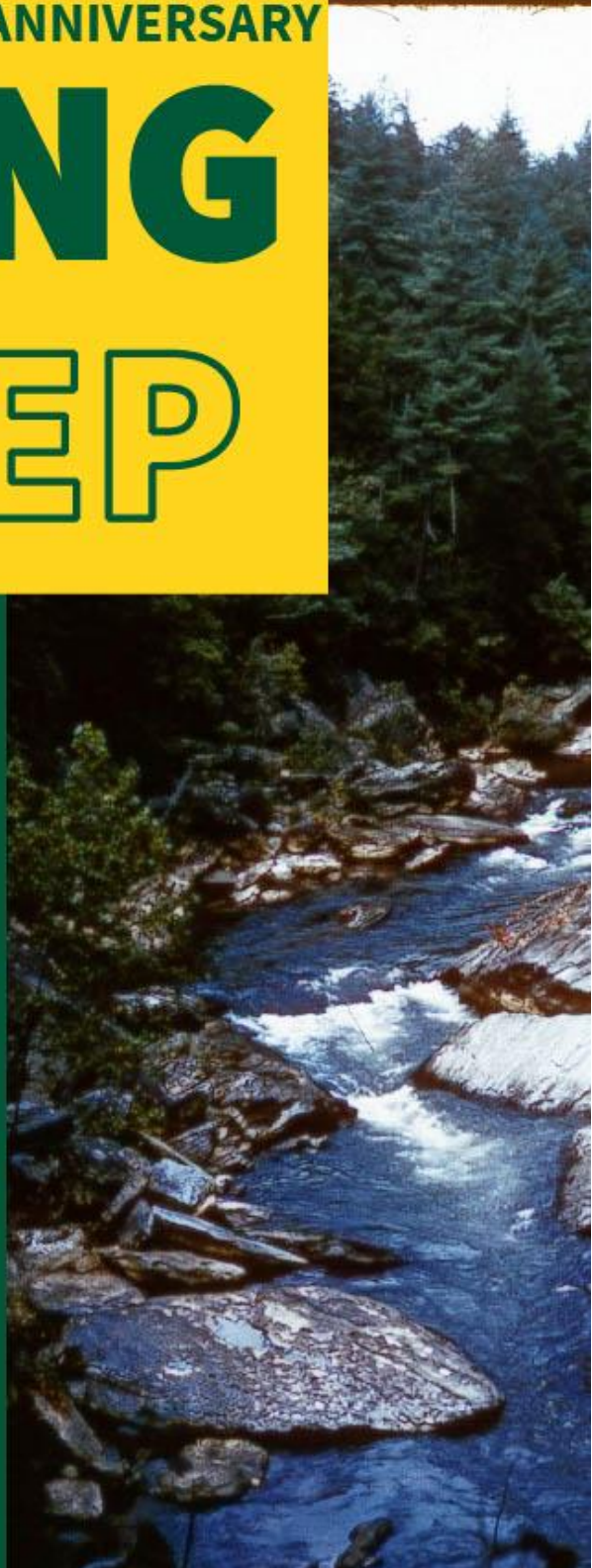
**Celebrating 50 YEARS as a  
WILD and SCENIC RIVER**

## **WANT TO JOIN?**

*Meet at the Hwy 76 Chattooga River  
Access Parking Lot at 9 am!*

You will be provided trash bags and a  
pick-up location. Please bring gloves,  
sturdy shoes, water, sun protection  
and a snack for the day

The USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.





# Highlands 13th Annual

Guided &  
Non-Guided  
Competitions

## 3 RIVER FLYFISHING FESTIVAL

HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA

Limited to  
50 Teams

May 2-4, 2024

for Men & Women of All Skill Levels

More than 2,200 Miles of Public Water Available to Fish During the Tournament  
Teams Will Fish One Native, One Hatchery Supported and One Delayed-Harvest Stream

Just \$500 Per 2-Person Team

Register by March 29 for Early Bird Rate of \$450

SIGN UP AT [3RIVERFLYFISH.COM](http://3RIVERFLYFISH.COM)

This Fun Weekend for the Whole Family Includes Lunch Both Days, Opening Night Reception,  
Closing Night Banquet With Food, Prizes and a Fishing Goody Bag



### Charter Sponsors

OLD  
EDWARDS  
INN *Spa*



CHRISTIE'S | HIGHLANDS  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE CASHIERS



BENJAMIN F. EDWARDS & CO.  
INVESTMENTS for GENERATIONS



Entry Fees Payable to the Town of Highlands Scholarship Fund are 100% Tax-Deductible  
For More Information, email [ThreeRiverFest@gmail.com](mailto:ThreeRiverFest@gmail.com) or call 404-307-1415.

## Let's Go Fishing! Rabun Chapter Begins GroupMe Fishing Trips.

Rabunites, let's go fishing! We'd like to continue the great tradition of member fishing trips that our chapter member Mike Fuller started. Board member Mike Anderson showed us an interactive app called GroupMe that will make coordination much easier. And any member can invite others thru this means. These are not a guided trips; it's a just a group of TU'ers going fishing and having fun.

Install the "GroupMe" app on your cell phone and then join the "Rabun TU Fishing Fun" group. Links are provided below to make it easier.

1) Click the link to install the GroupMe app:

App Store link: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/groupme/id392796698> (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/groupme/id392796698>)

Google Play (Android): <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.groupme.android> (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.groupme.android>)

2) Click the link to join the group: "Rabun TU Fishing Fun" : [https://groupme.com/join\\_group/99574781/5IUEhWfg](https://groupme.com/join_group/99574781/5IUEhWfg) ([https://groupme.com/join\\_group/99574781/5IUEhWfg](https://groupme.com/join_group/99574781/5IUEhWfg))

*And you're in! Contact me if you need any help. Jeff*



### Want to Boost Your Fly-casting Skills and Learn How to Teach Others the Art of the Long Rod?

Our friends at the Atlanta Fly Fishing School will be offering a 2-day intensive seminar in March to help anglers earn certification as Fly Fishing Instructors recognized by Fly Fishers International. You are invited to attend the course.

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



Whether I caught fish or not, just the thrill of rolling out that line and watching my fly turn over has been good enough for me. That and the hundreds of treasured memories I have of this wonderful sport.

*Curt Gowdy*



## Fishing Reports

### *Off To A Good Start!* *By Nanette O'Hara*

After a tough January where it seemed trout were only interested in junk flies or nymphs, my dry fly streak got back on track in February. I caught this pretty little rainbow, and several of his comrades, in wild trout waters in western NC on a #16 Blue-Winged Olive.

With a big coaching assist from Dredger, I also caught this fat stocker rainbow and several wild fish on another NC stream using pheasant tail and hares ear nymphs under an indicator.

My husband, Rick O'Hara, got a "2 for 1" special fishing a double-nymph rig under an indicator. A brown trout ate the top fly while a brookie gobbled the dropper. The winning combo was a Walt's worm and a France fly.



## February Chapter Meeting Recap

On February 20 the Rabun Chapter met at [Shady Creek Outfitters](#) for our monthly meeting. Trey McFalls, Chapter Vice Prez and owner of Shady Creek Outfitters, graciously opened his store after hours to the Chapter. After a brief welcome and introduction by Prez Tammy, we settled into an evening of fly tying instructions, led by Terry Rivers and Jeff Durniak, among others. Approximately 27 people attended the meeting and a good time was had by all. Thanks Trey for hosting us!





## Georgia DNR Fishing Information



Are you new to town? New to fishing? A terrible fisher?

Fear not, help is available thanks to the Georgia DNR. Below are a few links to get you started on your way to becoming a professional fisherman or fisherwoman.

Fishing Report: <https://georgiawildlife.wordpress.com/category/fishing/>

Reservoirs:

<http://georgiawildlife.com/fishing/reservoirs>

Trout:

<http://georgiawildlife.com/Trout>

Follow GA DNR:

<https://www.facebook.com/WildlifeResourcesDivisionGADNR/>

You can also check out NGTO for "Dredgers Weekly Fishing Report"

<http://www.georgia-outdoors.com/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=34>

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## Interested in Protecting Georgia's Natural Resources? Join the Camo Coalition!

Georgia Trout Unlimited Members:

The Georgia Wildlife Federation is an influential, non-profit, advocacy organizations which supports and protects Georgia's natural resources. The organization actively participates in legislative matters at the State Capitol.

Their "call to action" vehicle is the Camo Coalition, which provide us the opportunity to voice our opinion to our state representatives. You are encouraged to join the Camo Coalition: <https://gwf.org/camocoalition/#/>

Georgia's legislative cross over day is February 29<sup>th</sup> and includes some important conservation related legislation.

Please join the Camo Coalition, receive their notices and voice your concerns/opinions. There is no charge for this service.

*Dutch Earle*  
*Advocacy Chair*  
*Georgia Council Trout Unlimited*  
[advocacy@georgiatu.org](mailto:advocacy@georgiatu.org)

## **The Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited was Selected as the 2023 Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society's Fisheries Conservationist of the Year.**

Congratulations! The Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited was selected as the 2023 Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society's Fisheries Conservationist of the Year.

The Georgia AFS Fisheries Conservationist of the Year Award is designed to recognize an individual or group annually for their outstanding contributions or service to fisheries conservation in Georgia. Candidates for the award go the extra mile to protect, conserve, restore, or enhance Georgia's aquatic and fisheries resources for future generations.

This year Georgia AFS recognizes the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited for being champions of Georgia's trout species and the waters in which they live. This past year Georgia TU Chapters participated in riparian habitat and stream restoration projects, organized and hosted Georgia Trout Camp, assisted educators with the Trout in the Classroom project, organized numerous fishing clinics for veterans, first responders, cancer survivors, and scouts, and supported high school and college trout fishing clubs in Georgia.

Our Georgia AFS award winners will be announced during the awards banquet at our [annual meeting](#) at Great Wolf Lodge on February 14, 2024. You are invited to join us at our annual meeting as our guest and participate in the awards banquet, but it is not required to receive the award.

This year we dedicated one of our presentation sessions to 5-minute [Lightning Talks](#). We have a slot reserved for you if you would like to give a Lightning Talk about Georgia TU and its mission. Lightning Talks are scheduled for 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM on Wednesday, February 14.

Let me know as soon as you can if you are interested in giving a Lightning Talk and whether or not you can attend the awards banquet.

Respectfully,

Rebecca

**Rebecca Brown**  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
Georgia Chapter AFS  
241 Apple Ridge 2  
Dawsonville, GA 30534



[GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com](mailto:GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com)  
<https://gaafs.org/>

[Facebook~Instagram](#)

## March Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies .</u>
Early 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 (Important)	All month	Late am to Mid pm	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis 18 Hairs Ear Nymph
Cream Caddis (Important)	Late month	Mid day to Late pm	12-14 Cream Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Quill Gordon (Important)	Late month	Late am to Mid pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph
Red Quill aka Hendrickson	Mid-Late month	Mid day to Late pm	14-16 Red Quill or Hendrickson 14-16 Pheasant Tail Nymph
March Brown (Very Important)	Mid-Late month	L am to Mid pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 Dark Hares Ear or Pheasant Tail Nymph
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

## Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

### March Brown

**HOOK: # 12-16 Dry Fly Hook**

**TAIL: Brown Hackle Fibers**

**BODY: Brown Goose Biots**

**THORAX: Brown Rabbit Dubbing**

**PARACHUTE: Antron or Calf Tail**

**HACKLE: Brown**



**Spring is approaching fast! Watch for March Brown mayflies to hatch sporadically during warm, sunny days. Remember: you have to be there to see it!**

***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](#)  
[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](#) Scouts Liaison  
[Pat Hopton](#) Tight Lines Editor  
[Pat Hopton](#) Memorials

## ***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>	<u>To Replace</u>
Treasurer	March, 2027	Ray King*	Peter Croee
Director	March, 2028	Ken Kellerman	Kent Wilson

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

## 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!*

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## How to Change Chapters in Trout Unlimited

There may be instances when a person wishes to change the Chapter to which they are assigned by Trout Unlimited. *Thank you!* to [Mike Anderson](#), Rabun Chapter Membership Chairperson, for detailing how this can be done:

- Go to: <http://tu.org/login>
- Login with your username and password
- On the right hand side second up from the bottom is a link called "My Chapters".
- This screen should pop up:



- Top left select "change my chapter" and change it to 522 Rabun.

If you let me know it's done I can check real quick to make sure it transferred properly.

Thanks,

**Mike**

[manderson2228@gmail.com](mailto:manderson2228@gmail.com)

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## Rabun Chapter Membership Update

No new members this month.

Current Chapter membership: 156 adult members and 4 youth members.

## *Prez Notes*

Can you feel it?! Spring is in the air! It won't be long before the warm days will be followed by warm nights, and we enter the BEST time of year for trout fishing in the Southern Appalachians. The water temperature in our area creeks and rivers are on the rise, and that means the aquatic insects will soon be hatching. And I don't have to tell you what happens then: dry fly season is upon us! Yay! My favorite time of year to on the water!

I hope you have seen the announcement for our upcoming March Chapter meeting. Our own Jeff Durniak will give his presentation on "Matching Our Springtime Hatches". I don't believe there is anyone else in these mountains that is more qualified than Jeff to present such a program. In case you don't know, Jeff is a retired trout fisheries biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. So much of the success of the trout fisheries in Georgia can be directly attributed to Jeff. He knows his stuff. So come on out to the March Chapter meeting and hear his presentation. I plan to – I always learn something from him!

You will also notice that we will soon have two vacancies in our Chapter leadership: Kent Wilson has completed his four-year term as a member of the Board of Directors and Peter Croes is stepping down as Treasurer for personal reasons. Both men have done a great job in their leadership roles and we owe them a debt of gratitude. The Board of Directors is nominating Ken Kellerman to fill the vacancy on the Board, and is nominating Ray King to fill the vacancy as Treasurer. Just to be clear, Ray has agreed to also continue his duties as Fundraising Chairperson if elected as Treasurer. I fully support this slate of new officers. The Chapter will vote on this slate at the upcoming March meeting.

I am coming up on my one-year anniversary as your Chapter President. It has been an interesting and challenging year for me! I have never had this type of leadership position in my past, and though I feel that I have much improving to do, the few successes I have had are only due to the excellent support I have gotten from the other Chapter leaders. We have the best folks around serving as leaders in the Rabun Chapter and I am so appreciative of them.

In next month's Prez Notes I will speak to what I did and did not accomplish during my first year, and how I plan to serve as Chapter Prez in the coming year. I welcome your input: call, text, email, or meet me for coffee – I want to hear from you and what you want to see from your Rabun Chapter.

On a sad note, our friend, Sarah Baker, has resigned as Trout Fisheries Biologist for the GA DNR. She has a new baby girl and wishes to spend more time with her. While we will miss Sarah, we can't argue that she certainly has her priorities in the right place.

Until we meet again, I am getting my gear ready to go fishing! Pictures to follow....

*Prez Tammy*

ps—Don't forget to buy your Dream Trip tickets! Time is running out!