



TIGHT LINES

April 2024 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 website!



April, 2024 Rabun Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, April 23

[Currahee Brewing Company](#)

93 West Savannah Street, Clayton, GA

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

“Bluelining in the Southern Appalachians”

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND LOCATION FROM PREVIOUS CHAPTER MEETINGS!

Our April program will be “Bluelining in the Southern Appalachians.” Join Unicoi Outfitters’ Helen shop manager and flyfishing guide Wes McElroy as he provides tips and tricks for your late spring and summer exploits on high elevation trout waters. Wes is a native of White County and, while he’ll flyfish for anything from bowfin to muskies, his passion for small stream wild trout remains unsurpassed. If you’re a headwater trouter, then you don’t wanna miss this one!



Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- 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.
- Tuesday, April 23. **Monthly Rabun Chapter Meeting.** To be held at [Currahee Brewing Company](#), 93 West Savannah Street, Clayton, GA. Fellowship starts 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Program will be “Bluelining in the Southern Appalachians”. For more information see page 1 or contact [Tammy Hopton](#).
- Saturday, April 27. **Blue Ridge Trout & Outdoor Adventures Festival.** 10:00 am—6:00 pm. Downtown City Park, Blue Ridge, GA. Annual Troutfest fundraiser for the Blue Ridge Mtn Chapter. For more information, see page 4 or [CLICK HERE](#).
- 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 5 for more information.
- Thursday, May 2. Saturday, May 4. **3 Rivers Fly Fishing Festival.** Highlands, NC. [CLICK HERE](#) 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. [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.
- Saturday, June 15. **GA Council Quarterly Meeting.** Anyone can attend. Flinchum’s Phoenix, Athens, GA. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) 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.**

Continued next page

Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- 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 TBA.
- Saturday, Jan 25, 2025. **38th Annual Rabun Rendezvous.** Dillard House Conference Center, Dillard, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

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)

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



"Fishing provides that connection with the whole living world. It gives you the opportunity of being totally immersed, turning back into yourself in a good way." - Ted Hughes

Celebrate Trout Fishing in the Trout Capital of Georgia ...



7th Annual Blue Ridge Trout & Outdoor Adventures Festival

10 am to 6 pm, April 27, 2024
Downtown City Park, Blue Ridge, Georgia



Associated Event Partner

(02-09-24)



On April 27, 2024, 10 am to 6 pm, the 7th annual Blue Ridge Trout & Outdoor Adventures Festival returns to Blue Ridge, Georgia, and Fannin County – the *Official Trout Capital of Georgia*.

Fishermen, river sports enthusiasts and outdoor recreation fans and their families gather at Blue Ridge's downtown city park for recreational services, fun, food, activities, entertainment and shopping, while increasing the public's knowledge of trout and cold-water conservation associated with Trout Unlimited. Net proceeds of Trout Fest '24 support cold-water conservation, education, recreation and community awareness and outreach programs funded (in part) by [Blue Ridge Mountain Trout Unlimited #696](#).

Contact us:
Bob Borgwat
Event coordinator
770-827-6657
bborgwat@gmail.com
BlueRidgeTroutFest.com

Scan this image to learn more!

NEW THIS YEAR ... MAKE IT A TROUT-THEMED WEEKEND!



FIRST! The 2024 FLY FISHING FILM TOUR ... Cohutta Fishing Co. in Blue Ridge presents the 18th annual [Fly Fishing Film Tour \(F3T\)](#) on Friday, April 26 – the night before Trout Fest '24 – on the covered platform of the Blue Ridge Farmers Market. Visitors will view the best fly-fishing films on the planet while enjoying food, beverages, raffles and fly-fishing community camaraderie and raising funds and awareness for local cold-water resources.

FlyFilmTour.com

THEN! TROUT FEST' 24 ...

CAST-PADDLE-HIKE-CLIMB-RIDE-ART-LIVE MUSIC-CRAFT BEER-FOOD

The selection of exhibitors will be greater than ever before ...

More than 4,000 visitors are expected to pass through the gates of Trout Fest '24. The all-volunteer, fundraising event combines trout fishing and fly-fishing with services that engage fishing, mountain biking, hiking, camping, kayaking, paddling and boating ... retail vendors present wildlife art, outfitter gear, guide services.



Trout Fest Activity Zone opens up a world of outdoor fun ... climbing walls, mountain bikes, trout pond, crosscutting, axe throwing, gem mining and more!

Trout Fest Program Tents ... Professionals reveal local trout fishing, mountain biking, kayaking, hiking, paddling and more in Fannin County -- the *Trout Capital of Georgia*.

Atlanta Fly Fishing School returns! The casting, the bugs, the fish – all for free!



The Official Beer of Trout Fest '24

Trout Fest Food Court features new and returning vendors, and our Beer/Wine Garden will feature brews from Grumpy Old Men Brewing Company.

**TROUT FEST
TAGGED-TROUT
DERBY**

March 26-April 26

Fish for tagged trout in the Toccoa River. Return the tags to Trout Fest '24 for cash, awards and sponsored prizes.

More information
BlueRidgeTroutFest.com

3-6 pm
troncalli **MICHELLE MALONE & CANYONLAND** **with TOPPER**
Blue Ridge TROUT FEST
SOUND STAGE
SUBARU

The Ever-Best Festival Sponsor Team is Growing!

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](#).



“Wherever you camp in the world, the campfire will be one of the things that sticks in your memory the most!”

— Mehmet Murat ildan

Rabunites Attend the Hoot on the Hooch

On Saturday, April 23 a large contingent of Rabunites went to Helen, GA to attend the “Hoot on the Hooch”, the annual fundraiser for the Chattooga Chapter. We dined on barbeque, listened to bluegrass music, and bid on a multitude of silent auction items. Our Prez Tammy Hopton, on behalf of the Rabun Chapter, donated a Broderick Crawford print to be used in their silent auction. It was a great night and a good time was had by all!



Congratulations to the Dream Trip Winners!

During the Hoot on the Hooch, the winners of the Dream Trip prizes were announced. Congratulations to Wendy Fountain for winning the grand prize, a 5 day all expense paid guided fishing trip in Idaho donated by John and Laine McGarity! But wait! Our own Rabunite, Justin English, won the #7 runner-up prize: a \$100 gift certificate to Cabela’s, donated by the Savannah River Chapter.

For a complete list of all the prize winners, [CLICK HERE](#).

Thank you to everyone who bought Dream Trip tickets! Your support of the Georgia Council makes Trout Camp possible.



Rabunites Support Sweep the Chattooga

Also on Saturday, two Rabunites spent the morning doing trash pickup along the Chattooga River in support of Sweep the Chattooga, an annual event sponsored by the US Forest Service.

There was also a large number of Chattooga River Chapter members present that day, along with other organizations.



Rabunites Help with the Hardeman Farms Streambank Restoration Project

Big thanks to the volunteers for Tuesday’s accomplishments:

- A) about 250-300 live stakes planted in the riverbank.
- B) about two dozen extra trees and shrubs planted in the streamside buffer.



Rabun Chapter Selects our Candidate for the 2024 Trout Camp

The Rabun Chapter Board of Directors announces it's selection of the young person the Chapter will sponsor to attend the 2024 Georgia Trout Camp: Jackson Parris. Jackson is 14 years old and is the son of Jacquie Parris from Dillard, GA.

Congratulations, Jackson!

Rabun Chapter Welcomes New District Ranger

The Rabun Chapter welcomes the new District Ranger for the Chattooga River Ranger District, Towdy Tipton. Towdy has a Bachelors Degree in Forestry Resource Management from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She has worked for the US Forest Service for 13 years, with her last assignment prior to coming here being the Recreation Program Manager on the Blue Ridge Ranger District in Blairsville. Congratulations Towdy on your new assignment!



Chapter Prez Tammy Hopton recently had the opportunity to meet with Towdy. They discussed possible ways to continue and strengthen the relationship between the Chapter and the Forest Service. Both Towdy and Tammy came away looking forward to accomplishing many great things to conserve and protect the cold water resources of Northeast Georgia.



Rabun Chapter Donates Supplies to the GA DNR

The Rabun Chapter recently purchased thermographs and batteries to be donated to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division. These thermographs will be used to monitor long-term water temperature changes in the Chattooga River. This information will be used to help guide fisheries management of the river.

Prez Tammy presents the thermographs and batteries to Leon Brotherton, trout fisheries technician, at his office at the Lake Burton Hatchery.



Rabun Chapter Selects New Leaders and Honors Outgoing Leaders

The Rabun Chapter Board of Directors nominated two new members to the leadership team: Ken Kellerman to replace outgoing Board of Director Kent Wilson, and Ray King to replace outgoing Treasurer Peter Croess. The nomination was presented to the Chapter members at the April Chapter meeting for a vote and the new leaders were unanimously voted in.

Prez Tammy thanked Kent and Peter for their service by presenting a gift to each on behalf of the Chapter.

She then welcomed Ken and Ray to their new positions. Thank you guys for stepping up!

There are many other opportunities to serve your Chapter. If you are interested in helping out, contact [Prez Tammy](#).



Rabun Chapter Prez Attends Southeastern TU Rendezvous

Nine members of GATU, including Rabun Prez Tammy Hopton, attended the annual South Eastern Rendezvous for Trout Unlimited on March 15-17.

This year the event was held in Nashville Tennessee, “Music Capital of the World!” Cohutta Chapter Past President and Current GATU Council Chairman, Rodney Tumlin, was a presenter at this year’s gathering. His topic was Trout Camp and other TU youth education programs.

Saturday evening Trout Unlimited CEO, Chris Wood was the Keynote speaker. Georgia TU received a lot of recognition from Chris for the ongoing work we are doing for cold-water conservation in our state.

All of the attendees came away inspired to put into practice what they had learned from the various breakout sessions and networking with members from other southern states.



Two Past Members of Rabun Chapter Recently Passed Away

From Jeff Durniak: Seasoned Rabunites mourn the recent loss of our dear friend and fishing buddy, the legendary **Henry Williamson**. Henry was a chapter member during our early, formative years. Many of us considered him the very best Georgia trout fishing guide and casting instructor. His professional career spanned more than three decades, primarily as the leader of the Fish Hawk flyfishing school at his home in Sky Valley and most recently as a guide for Brookings Anglers in Highlands. Henry helped thousands of fly anglers, new and old, to enhance their casting and catching skills and make our sport their own lifetime passion, as well.



Henry was truly one of a kind. Everyone who met him will never forget him. His crusty exterior was marked by highly colorful language that could make a sailor blush and freely expressed opinions on every topic under the sun. Behind the rough exterior of this wiry old mountain man was a truly warm, educated, kindhearted, and selfless gentleman who gave freely of his time and expertise to all of us.

We are all better for knowing ole Henry. He's now "around the bend," hanging out with our dearly departed chapter members at a riverside campfire with the rings of rises dotting the pool behind them. And showing them all how to match that hatch and deliver a perfect cast, via his colorful coaching narrative.

Thank you Henry, for enriching our lives. We look forward to our own reunion with you around the bend. Save a few risers for us.

Editors Note: My late father, Frank Hopton, was a hard man. A WWII Navy vet, a chain smoker, and an alcoholic, I never heard the words "I love you" come from his lips. In his later years he wanted to learn to fly fish. He had always trout fished, but he was a cricket fisherman. So he went to The Fish Hawk in Atlanta and they hooked him up with a lesson from Henry Williamson.

Of course I knew Henry. He, like I, was a Charter member of the Rabun Chapter. So later I asked Daddy how his lesson had gone. "Great!" he said. But he kept using crickets. When I asked Henry the same question, he went on and on about how much he liked my Dad. It wasn't until some years later that I learned that they actually did very little fishing. Instead they sat on the creek bank, cussed about the state of the world, smoked cigarettes and drank beer. I can picture it to this day.

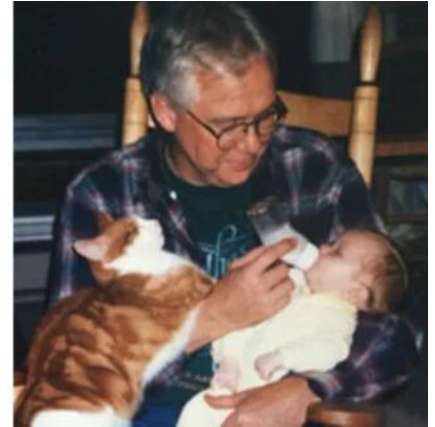
They stayed friends for years, in fact Henry sent a heart felt card at my fathers death.

That was Henry Williamson. He was good to my Daddy and I loved him and I will miss him.

[Obituary for Henry Williamson III | Beck Funeral Home](#)

Two Past Members of Rabun Chapter Recently Passed Away *Continued*

George Pearis Reynolds, 74, died on March 14, 2024, in Knoxville, TN. George was born on June 25, 1949, to Robert and Henrietta Reynolds in Bland, West Virginia. His parents were both members of families who had been among the early white settlers in Appalachia, and throughout his life George embraced his deep roots in the mountains he loved.



George was a lifelong educator. He taught school in Rabun County, Georgia, as a member of the Foxfire Program and was devoted to his students. Helping them gain an appreciation of their culture and heritage, through the Foxfire books, was one of the greatest accomplishments of his life. He continued his career in education as the instrumental music teacher at Beaumont Elementary School in Knoxville, Tennessee, and provided his special brand of teaching to hundreds of students. George believed that music was a great equalizer and through that medium people could gain access to the skills and knowledge to live more productive and creative lives.

George was gifted with an extraordinary voice, which he used to share the music from the mountains he loved. With several of his students, he formed The Foxfire Boys band, which continues to perform today. They had the honor of playing for the Olympic Games in Norway and Atlanta, GA, and played on the Grand Ole Opry.

Editors Note: Like other Rabun Chapter members, I had the pleasure of sitting around many campfires listening to George Reynolds and the rest of the Foxfire Boys play music. What memories!

I suppose my favorite memory is a western trip taken with Doug Adams, George Reynolds, and others from the Chapter. At every stop the instruments would break out and good Appalachian Mountain bluegrass music would ring out over the Rocky Mountains!

Here is a picture I took during that trip: it shows George playing the banjo, Tom Nixon playing the guitar, Doug cooking breakfast, and I believe that's Kyle and Brooks helping. All under the aspen trees somewhere in the Rocky Mountains. Getting ready for a day of fishing—it doesn't get any better than that.



Thank you, George, for the memories.

[George Pearis Reynolds Obituary - Knoxville News Sentinel \(knoxnews.com\)](https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/obituaries/2024/03/14/george-pearis-reynolds-obituary-knoxnews-com/7345450002)

April Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
Quill Gordon Mayfly	Early month	Late am to Mid pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12-14 Quill Gordon Nymph
Blue Quill Mayfly	Early month	Late am to Mid pm	16-18 BWO, Blue Quill, or Blue Dun 16-18 Prince or Pheasant Tail
Small Dun Caddis (Important)	All month	Late am to Mid pm	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis 18 Hairs Ear Nymph
Cream Caddis (Very important)	All month	Mid day to Late pm	12-14 Cream Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Hendrickson Mayfly	All month	Late am to mid pm	12-14 Hendrickson or Adams Parachute 12-14 Pheasant Tail Nymph
March Brown (Important)	All month	L am to Mid pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 Dark Hares Ear or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Yellow Sally Stonefly	Late month	Early to late am	14-16 Yellow Stimulator or Yellow Elk Hair Caddis 14-16 Yellow Stonefly Nymph
Light Cahill Mayfly (Important)	Late month	Early to late pm	12-14 Light Cahill 12-14 Light Cahill Nymph
Speckled Gray Caddis	Late month	Mid to late pm	12-14 Dark Elk Hair Caddis or Deer Hair Caddis 12-14 Dun or Yellow/Brown Caddis Pupa
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,

Fishing Reports

No fishing reports submitted this month?? What's up with that? Let's go fishing!

Spring Scenes



Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Parachute Adams

HOOK: # 12-18 Dry Fly Hook

TAIL: Brown Hackle Fibers

BODY: Grey Dubbing

PARACHUTE: Antron or Calf Tail

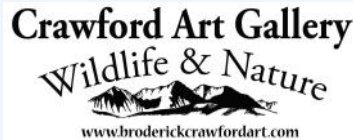
HACKLE: Grizzly / Brown Mix



A great all-around fly to use during the Spring, it imitates many varieties of mayflies. Try attaching a small nymph as a dropper.

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
Ray King	Treasurer
David Ruth	Secretary
Jeff Durniak	Past President
Ray King	Fundraising Chair
Steve Perry	Director thru 03/25
Mike Anderson	Director thru 03/26
Rick O'Hara	Director thru 03/27
Ken Kellerman	Director thru 03/28

Non-Voting Leaders

Jerry McFalls	Scouts Liaison
Pat Hopton	Tight Lines Editor
Pat Hopton	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 Membership Chairperson [Mike Anderson](#).

We look forward to having you in our Chapter!

Rabun Chapter Membership Update

One new member this month: Wes Hurley from Clarkesville, GA. *Welcome, Wes!*
Current Chapter membership: 155 adult members and 4 youth members.

Prez Notes

Spring is a wonderful season in North Georgia...spring flowers, greening of the trees, warmer temperatures and fishing! Spring always feels like a new beginning. April starts our new fiscal year as well. For us Rabunites, Spring is busy. We have Rabunite 101, the Spring campout and trying new locations for our meetings. Exciting, right?

It has been one year since I became president of the Rabun Chapter.. time for a checkup.

Our aim for the first year was to shake things up a bit. We had found ourselves in a very different world after the pandemic. I know we really don't want to think about those years but it brought us where we are today. We had limited our in person events and meeting to protect our members. In light of that time of separation we returned to craving togetherness.

Last year, the pandemic was over, many people wanted to be involved in outdoor activities. We had hoped to take advantage of that movement to increase our young adult membership. We also wanted to increase our conservation efforts. Those were our goals.

Well we still have work to do in both of these areas. We have 155 members. That is actually down a bit. We are working to attract younger members by changing our meetings to more active events. We are also trying out new venues. We have had increased participation in our meetings so far. Let me know what you think or if you have ideas of meeting locations and events.

We continue to work on Reed creek with the USFS and GA DNR. Last year we had a great turn out for the Reed Creek project. We also had a trash pickup at the 28 Bridge. We have several plans for conservation for this upcoming year. It takes time to make arrangements with our agency partners but hopefully we will make some progress this year.

Please signup and get involved... we can use your input and help making things happen!

Prez Tammy