



TIGHT LINES

May 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!



May, 2024 Rabun Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, May 21

Hot Dog Cookout and Fishing on "The River"

Organized by Charlie and Kathy Breithaupt

To be held at the Parking Area on Georgia side of Burrell's Ford bridge.

Fellowship starts at 5:00 pm, meeting and meal starts at 6:00 pm.

With fishing before and after the meal!

Several years ago the Rabunites decided to have the May Chapter meeting at a time and place so we could all FISH!!! Our next meeting will be Tuesday May 21 at the parking lot on the Georgia side of Burrell's Ford on the Chattooga River. We will serve hot dogs for all and maybe have a BRIEF meeting. You can fish before or after the meal, or even better both! Bring a chair and a side dish and enjoy a beautiful evening on "The River" with The Rabunites.

We must have a head count so we know how many hot dogs to cook. Please email Kathy & Charlie Breithaupt at knc615@windstream.net and let them know if you are coming.



Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- Saturday , May 4. **3 Rivers Fly Fishing Festival.** Highlands, NC. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Friday, May 10. **Trout Fishing with Mom.** Public fishing day for Mom, hosted by the GA DNR. Volunteers needed. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information or contact [John Lee Thomson](#).
- 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. 9:00 am at the Family Connection Center, Blue Ridge, GA. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, June 18. **Monthly Chapter Meeting.** Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Social starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, June 25. **Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Starts at 7:00 pm. Anyone can attend. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, 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.**
- Tuesday, September 17. **Annual Chattooga River Electroshock Sampling.** Location and time TBA. Rain date September 24. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.

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.

Call for Volunteers! Stream Conservation Project

Please come join the Rabun Chapter on Thursday, May 16 for a stream conservation project.

We will be working under the supervision of the US Forest Service and GA Department of Natural Resources to construct new stream structures and perform maintenance on existing stream structures in Reed Creek.

We will meet at 8:30 am near the “Double Bit” dispersed camping area, located alongside Reed Creek just off the Burrells Ford Road.

We should be finished by 12:00 pm. Bring gloves and clothes that can get wet and dirty. Bottled water will be provided.

Directions to the work project:

- From Clayton, GA take Warwoman Road (next to Ingles) approximately 13 miles to the intersection with GA Hwy 28.
- Turn right onto GA Hwy 28 and go approximately 1.7 to Burrells Ford Road (FS Road 646) on your left.
- Turn left onto Burrells Ford Road. Burrells Ford Road is a gravel road with some ruts and rough spots, but is appropriate for most trucks and SUV's. Go approximately 5 miles. Look for other vehicles parked along the road and a TU sign.
- Parking will be alongside the Burrells Ford Road. We will walk to the work project area from the road.

Contact [Steve Perry](#), Conservation Team Leader, if you need more information.





Rabun Chapter Trout Unlimited Fundraiser

Mack Martin Custom Built Fly Rod & TFO Reel Sweepstakes

Winston 9', 4-piece, 4 wt. AIR-2 Boron/Graphite Rod with Carbon Fiber Rod Tube

TFO NTR Reel with Wulff TT 4-Weight Line with 100 yards 20 lb Backing

Raffle tickets are \$3.00 each or four (4) for \$10.00

Purchase tickets here: <https://go.tulocalevents.org/d0bd07/Campaign/Details>

Drawing will be held at the July 16, 2024 Rabun TU Chapter picnic



Thank You, Mack, for your generous donation!

Rabun Chapter Selects a Second Candidate for the 2024 Trout Camp!

The Rabun Chapter Board of Directors announces that it has selected a second young person the Chapter will sponsor to attend the 2024 Georgia Trout Camp: Baylor Wilson. Baylor is 13 years old and is the son of Bonnie Wilson from Gainesville, GA and the grandson of Chapter member Larry Walker.

Congratulations, Baylor!

Report from Rabunite 101

April 13, 2024

We welcomed some new brothers and sisters today to the sport of fly fishing, Rabunite style. Participants in our introductory workshop were introduced to knots, gear, entomology (trout food) and basic casting techniques. Each "graduate" received a year membership in our chapter, and we sure hope to see them again soon, at a meeting or on a stream.



Prez Tammy presents a \$500 donation to Project Healing Waters—Georgia on behalf of the Rabun Chapter. We support our veterans!

Report from April Monthly Chapter Meeting

April 23, 2024

We learned Bluelining Basics at our April monthly Chapter meeting from a small-stream master, Wes McElroy of Unicoi Outfitters. Wes shared tips and techniques for finding wild trout, especially native brookies, in high-elevation coldwater streams.

Attendance was high and everyone enjoyed the can't-miss combo of beer and fish talk at our meeting location, [Currahee Brewing](#).



I carry fewer flies each year, and less gear. Each year I watch a little more, fish a little less. My expertise with a fly rod, such as it is, fails to improve much.

Christopher Camuto
A Fly Fisherman's Blue Ridge (1990)

Report from the Spring Chapter Campout

May 1—5, 2024 at Oconee State Park

By Monty English

What an awesome 5 days of camping, fishing, catching up with old friends, volunteering with the TU, and a happy birthday for Jackson English! My old friend Timothy Hill recently retired from the Army and was able to come down from Virginia to camp and fish. The best we can remember it had been 28 years since we had seen each other. He is still ugly.

We had a great time at the annual Rabun TU spring campout. We caught some fish, we did a stream cleanup at Burrells Ford, and we also got to celebrate a special 7th birthday for young Jackson! A great time had by all!



Report from Trash Pickup Conservation Project

Thank you to the 10 Rabunites who gathered at Burrell's Ford on Saturday May 4 to pick up trash along the Chattooga River. We filled six 6 bags with trash from around the parking areas, dispersed campgrounds and along the stream bank. Our first canine volunteer, Mr. Blue Eyes, helped us by picking up sticks!



Your Chapter Support at Work!

Recently two events took place in our area that the Rabun TU Chapter is proud to support, thanks to YOUR support of us:

Casting for Recovery hosted their Spring retreat at Smithgall Woods State Park, with the help of many volunteer helpers (maybe even some of you!). CFR uses fly fishing as a healing therapy for both mind and body for women with breast cancer. Participants find inspiration and connections with nature and each other while learning to fly fish. We are proud to have donated \$1,000 this year to the CFR program in Georgia.

Black Rock State Park held a Fishing Rodeo for kids 15 and under. They fished for fun and prizes at Black Rock Lake. Our Chapter contributed \$250 to this terrific event that introduces many of our area children to fishing for the first time.

Your membership and participation in our annual Rabun Rendezvous provides the funding for us to assist with these and other worthwhile education, engagement and conservation programs throughout NE Georgia.



Board member Rick O'Hara presents a donation of \$250 to Black Rock State Park on behalf of the Rabun Chapter.

MAY Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
None at all	All Month	All Day	Dredging Nymphs: 12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, Pheasant Tail
Gray, Brown Caddis	All month	L pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12-14 Quill Gordon Nymph
Red Quill Mayfly	All month	All day	12-14 Hendrickson 14 Red Quill
Light Cahill Mayfly*	Late	E to L pm	12-14 Light Cahill 12-14 Light Cahill Nymph
March Brown Mayfly*	All Month	L am to M pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 March Brown Nymph, Dark Hare's Ear, or Pheasant Tail
Sulphur Mayfly *	All Month	L pm	12-14 Sulphur Parachute 12-18 Sulphur Dun
Green Drake Mayfly*	Mid-Late	L am to L pm	8-10 Green Drake Mayfly
Coffin Fly*	Mid-Late	L pm to dark 30	8-10 White Spentwing 8-10 Coffin Fly Parachute
Yellow Stonefly	Late	E to L am L pm to dark	14-16 Yellow Stimulator or Elk Hair Caddis (Yellow) 14-16 Yellow Stone Nymph
Giant Black Stonefly	All month	E am	4-8 Black Stonefly Nymph 8 Dark Stonefly Nymph

* **IMPORTANT!**

Hot tip: Don't leave early. Go late and stay later. Carry a flashlight! Many times the trout won't rise until the sun starts going down and the bugs come out to find a mate.

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Light Cahill

HOOK: # 12-18 Dry Fly Hook

TAIL: White Hackle Fibers

BODY: Cream Super Fine Dubbing

WING: Wood Duck Shank Feathers

HACKLE: White Hackle Palmered



HAVE THESE IN YOUR BOX DURING THE MONTH OF MAY. FISH TILL DARK AND WAIT FOR THE GREEN DRAKES TO HATCH AND HANG ON. THIS IS THE FILET MIGNON TO TROUT!

See you on The River! Terry

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

Nine new member this month: Jeanie Croes from Dillard, GA; John Fell from Starke, FL; Russ Logan from Lakemont, GA; Jeff Loggins from Clayton, GA; Brittany Winkler from Tiger, GA; Sydney Crouch from Turnerville, GA; Kyle Watkins from Tiger, GA; Michael Cappela from Clayton, GA; and Cole Logan Lakemont, GA. *Welcome, new members!*

Current Chapter membership: 165 adult members and 3 youth members.

Rabun Chapter Leadership Contacts

Voting Leaders

[Tammy Hopton](#)

[Trey McFalls](#)

[Ray King](#)

[David Ruth](#)

[Jeff Durniak](#)

[Ray King](#)

[Steve Perry](#)

[Mike Anderson](#)

[Rick O'Hara](#)

[Ken Kellerman](#)

Chapter President

Chapter Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Past President

Fundraising Chair

Director thru 03/25

Director thru 03/26

Director thru 03/27

Director thru 03/28

Non-Voting Leaders

[Jerry McFalls](#)

[Pat Hopton](#)

[Pat Hopton](#)

[Nannete O'Hara](#)

Scouts Liaison

Tight Lines Editor

Memorials

Social Media Chair

Fishing Reports

By Brian Weeks

At the Rendezvous this past January, one of the silent auction items was a day of fishing a private stretch of Dukes Creek with hosts Pat and Tammy Hopton. After some determined bidding, my bride and I had the privilege of winning that trip.

The four of us met up on a Saturday morning in late April. Pat and Tammy were first class hosts from the outset. The day began with an interesting history of Dukes Creek. We then geared up and hiked to the stream.

So many things were just right that day, from the flows, to the water and air temps, to the slightly stained water and overcast skies. My bride was the first up, and it didn't take long for her to hook into a nice one. While it didn't make it to the net, it was an encouraging beginning to the day.

A bit later, she reminded me of the importance of getting down to the fish, rather than fishing over them. She was fishing a particular run, but wasn't getting anything. She then adjusted her indicator to give her fly another foot of depth, and within a few casts, boom, fish on, and fish in the net.

One of the bows gave a member of our group quite a little battle, taking him downstream a bit, before finally (and thankfully) succumbing to the net.

Between our foursome, about 40 fish were stuck or netted, including landing a double. But the real highlight and value of the trip was getting the opportunity to spend the day with such a special couple, Pat and Tammy. And a special thank you to the Adams family for their generosity in donating their private waters to help raise money for the Rabun Chapter.



Fishing Reports, cont.

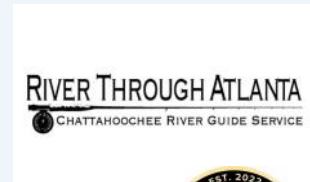
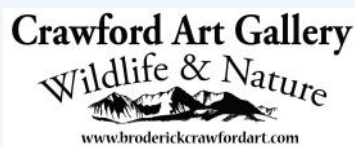
By Rick and Nanette O'Hara

Rick O'Hara caught this beautiful 21-inch trout on a guided trip with Scott Low at Hatch Camp on Warwoman Creek. The trout slurped a yellow stimulator from the surface.

Nanette O'Hara caught several beautiful Chattooga River rainbows on a guided trip with Zac Chapman of Shady Creek Expeditions. Streamers, emergers and mop variations were all successful flies.



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.*

Prez Notes

Thank you Rabunites, for all you do. We have had some fun meetings lately and have gotten a lot accomplished. All due to the great leadership team we have for our Chapter. Let me tell you a little about them.

Jeff Durniak, Past President, works hard to bring speakers that can help us perfect our ability to catch trout. He also keeps me in line—a big job!

Trey McFalls, Vice President, has been working hard to set up new and interesting places to meet. The brewery for last month was a great idea! Trey is my back-up guy when I can't be here.

David Ruth is our Secretary. He keeps the minutes of our BOD meetings. That is a hard task because we tend to wander off topics and get overly excited about some topics which can be challenging to follow. He does his job with grace and humor.

Steve Perry, Board Member and Conservation Chair, has rightly been busy lately with taking care of Elizabeth at home. But he also has been working very hard with the USFS and GA DNR to identify conservation needs in our area to keep our streams cold and clean.

Rick O'Hara, Board Member, is a steady voice in our group. He is known to sometimes ask the tough but thoughtful questions. When he speaks, we listen. He also jumps in to help wherever is needed.

Mike Anderson, Board Member and Membership Chair, is working to pull us into 21st century. It is a hard job to push us forward but he is working on it. He is our voice of 'how to' when it comes to computers and websites.

Ray King is a man with two hats these days. He just stepped into our Treasurer role. And he has been our Fundraising Chair for many years now. Thank goodness for Ray!

Ken Kellerman is the newest member of the Board. He is enthusiastic and volunteers for jobs without hesitation!

Nanette O'Hara is our Social Media Chairperson. She keeps us visible on Facebook and is working to create an Instagram Page. She is our magician for advertising.

Pat Hopton is of course the Newsletter Editor. That takes up more time than most of us realize. He does a great job!

Give them all a hand and a 'Thank You' next time you see them! They deserve it! Of course, that is not all of our workforce. So think about it.... what role can you play? There are many opportunities to help. Please do!

Let me know if you want to be more involved.. we would love to have you!!

Prez Tammy