



TIGHT LINES

June 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!



Now on Instagram!
[@rabunchaptertu](#)

NEXT RABUN CHAPTER MEETING FUN EVENT!

Tuesday, July 16—Annual Family Picnic

Time: Fellowship at 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6:00 pm, and Drawing for Mack Martin Rod Sweepstakes at 6:30 pm

Where: Day Use Picnic Shelter, Tallulah Gorge State Park

From Clayton, GA take US Hwy 441 South for 11 miles. Turn right onto Terrora Circle (just before crossing the bridge). Picnic shelter will be on your right.

Important! A Georgia State Park Parking Pass is required for every vehicle visiting State Parks. Daily parking passes (\$5.00) or annual parking passes (\$50.00) may be purchased at the Park or by clicking [HERE](#).

The Chapter will provide fresh grilled hamburgers with all the fixings, plates, cups, silverware, ice, and drinks. Please bring a covered dish of food and a chair to sit on. *This would be a great time to bring a friend and introduce them to your Chapter!*

At the picnic we will draw for the winner of the Mack Martin Rod Sweepstakes. There's still time to buy your tickets! See page 3.

Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- Tuesday, July 16. **Annual Rabun Chapter Family Picnic.** This will be our monthly Chapter meeting. Hamburgers and hot dogs provided by the chapter, please bring a covered dish. Tallulah Gorge State Park Picnic Pavilion in Day Use Area, Tallulah Falls, GA. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, July 23. **Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** Anyone can attend. Contact [Trey McFalls](#) for more information.
- **No Chapter activities in the month of August.**
- Saturday, Aug 3. **Holcomb Creek Stream Conservation Project.** Sponsored by the US Forest Service and GA DNR to be conducted with local Boy Scout Troop 6. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, September 17. **Annual Chattooga River Electroshock Sampling.** Location and time TBA. Rain date September 24. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Wednesday, November 13 - 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.
- Friday, January 31—Sunday, February 2, 2025. **Atlanta Fly Fishing Show.** Gas South Convention Center, Duluth, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Connect with Rabun Chapter TU on Social Media

Are you on FaceBook or Instagram? Well the Rabun Chapter is too!

We invite you to follow us for timely fishing info, conservation news and alerts, and reminders of Chapter activities. We feature member photos and videos and share news from the motherships: - National and Georgia Council TU—as well as partners such as the US Forest Service and GA Department of Natural Resources. We even dish some hot fishing tips and post some just-for-fun content for all you trout fin-atics.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/rabuntu

Follow us on Instagram at [@rabunchaptertu](https://www.instagram.com/rabunchaptertu)

Check out our website at www.rabuntu.org

Have photos, videos or news to share with Chapter members? Send them to Nanette O'Hara, Social Media Chair at oharacomm@gmail.com

Mack Martin Rod Sweepstakes

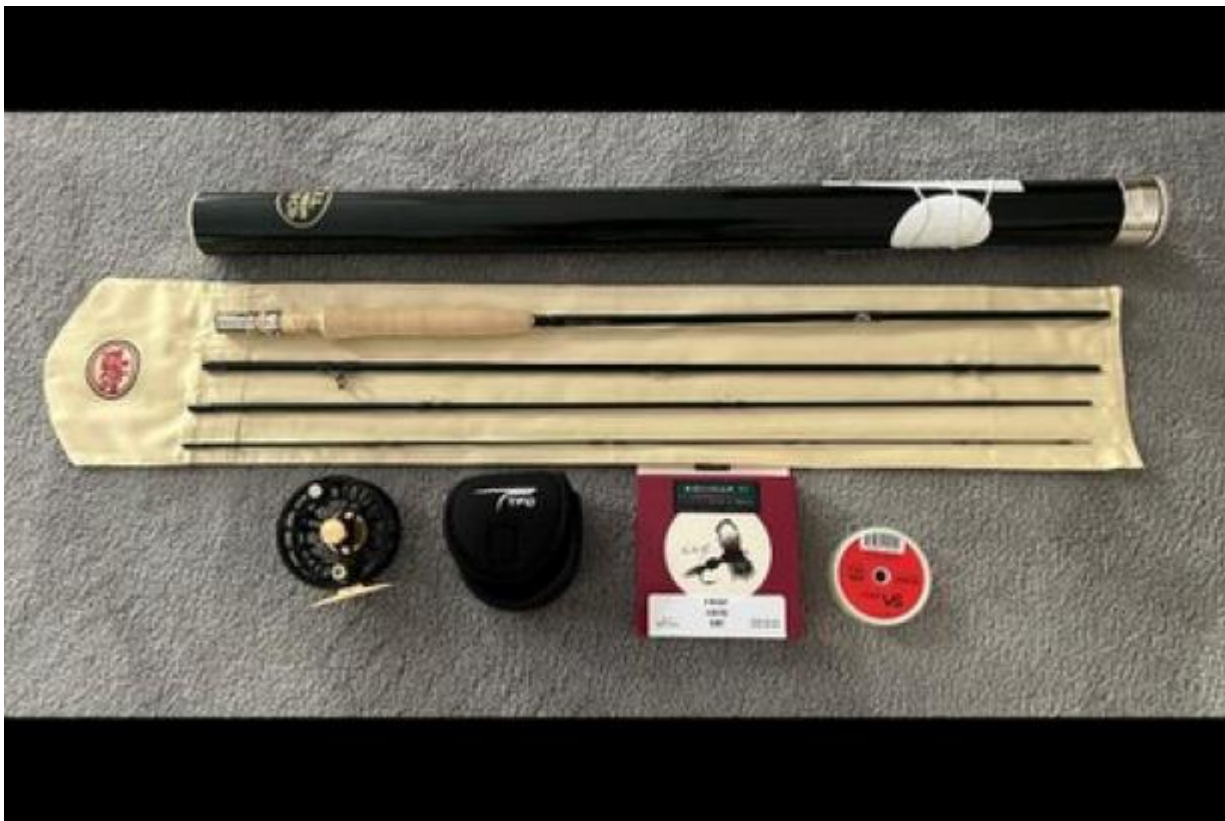
Once again, Mack Martin of the Atlanta Fly Fishing School has graciously donated a custom-built fly rod and reel to the Rabun Chapter as a fundraiser.

Thank you, Mack!

This year's rod is a Winston AIR-2 Boron/Graphite 9' length, 4-weight, 4-piece fly rod. It comes with a cloth rod sleeve and Carbon fiber rod tube; a TFO NTR Reel, Scientific Anglers backing and a Royal Wulff "Triangle Taper" 4-Weight Fly Line. This combo, valued at \$1,500, is ready to fish and perfect for our Appalachian streams.

Entries are only \$3 each. At that low price, you'll want to buy a bunch! Get 'em now by clicking <https://go.tulocalevents.org/d0bd07/Campaign/Details>

Deadline to purchase entries is July 12. The winner will be announced at our Annual Chapter Picnic on July 16. You do not have to be present to win.



TO FISH OR NOT TO FISH

WATER THERMOMETER



ABOVE 68°F

Too hot for trout!

Trout are feeling stressed and need a break. Mortality chances increase, even with proper catch-and-release. Try finding an alternative location to fish or try again when it cools down.



65°F - 68°F

Trout are slowing down and feeling the heat.

Rope up with heavier tippet to land the fish quicker. Keep them wet and skip the pictures to minimize their time out of the water. Be patient, they may need more time to revive before releases.



BELOW 65°F

Trout are happy, hungry and ready for a fight!

You can feel confident that the fish will survive after proper catch-and-release.

[CLICK HERE](#) to check the water temperature on the Chattooga River at Burrells Ford.



The hot weather and light hatches of July and August are two of the reasons (excuses really) why many Rabunites make annual treks to fish and camp “West of Hiawassees”, or as Lewis Reeves Jr. used to say: “Out Yonder”.

A Message from Jeff Durnisk

Tammy and the BOD heard you loud and clear and have tried to provide more outdoor activities for y'all this year. That effort continues. We have two great opportunities this fall to share our passion for flyfishing while promoting our conservation mission, and maybe attracting some new members. But program success depends on you! The majority of your Board of Directors has already stepped up, but I still need more volunteers as follows.

- I need six more volunteer “casters” on September 6. Rabun TU has been invited to help Leadership Georgia guests from across the state to “sample” flycasting at Burton Hatchery. From 830AM to 4PM, we will host 9 groups of guests (20 minutes per group) at the hatchery ponds where we will briefly demo casting and let them try it (yarn, no hooks). The chapter and Shady Creek (Trey) will provide rods.
- I need 8 more “fishing guides” from 12-5PM on Sunday afternoon, October 27. We'd like to offer a ladies-only “Rabunite 201” program of instream flyfishing instruction in Helen. Unicoi Outfitters has graciously offered our exclusive use of their private trophy waters on the Hooch. We'll advertise this program online and charge guests a nominal fee to cover our expenses. We should have enough loaner rods and some loaner waders. I just need enough willing “fishing guides” to supply flies and help our guests enjoy an afternoon on the water.

Thank you for considering these two opportunities. Please email, text, or call me and let me know if you can help the BOD and me on 9/6, 10/27 or both events. I'm at jeffdurniak@yahoo.com and ph: 706-892-6576. I can't pull off these events without y'all, so please help if you can. Thanks!

Jeff Durniak
Chapter Program Director

Shenandoah National Park Temporarily Suspends Fishing

Effective immediately, Shenandoah National Park's streams and rivers are closed to fishing due to low flows and high water temperatures.

Low flows and high temperatures create extremely stressful conditions for fish, and dissolved oxygen can decline to fatal conditions. The additional stress of angling during these conditions could harm the native brook trout populations, which are already low across much of the park. This closure is for all streams within park boundaries including both open-to-harvest and catch-and-release waters. The closure will be lifted when stream conditions improve. Stream flows are expected to remain low until significant precipitation occurs across the area.

Although it has been rare for the park to close fishing in the past few decades, it was done in response to drought conditions in 2021 and 2023.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

2024 Trout Camp—Another Success!!

The 2024 Georgia Trout Camp was a success! 11 boys and 1 girl representing most of the chapters in our state gained knowledge in cold water conservation, improved in fly casting and fly tying and...you don't have to believe this if you don't want to...all caught a trout on a fly.

Our partners from the Georgia DNR and the US Forest Service supported us throughout the camp and, as always, added much to the experience for the campers.

Over 50 TU volunteers gave of their time, talent, equipment, energy and passion to pass on to the coming generations the skill and knowledge to not only enjoy fly fishing for trout but to also appreciate all that is a part of the wonderful sport...entomology, conservation, stream restoration, casting, fly tying, fishing etiquette and comradery...to name a few.

Thanks to all for making the Georgia Trout Camp successful one more time.



Left to right: Chapter Prez Tammy Hopton with Campers Sydney Crouch, Jackson Parris, and Baylor Wilson. Jackson and Baylor were sponsored by the Rabun Chapter and Sydney was sponsored by the Coosa Valley Chapter.



Baylor Wilson with an 18" rainbow trout caught at Nacoochee Bend!

Report from the June Monthly Chapter Meeting

Casting and Cold Cuts

June 18, 2024

It was a blast to cast at the June Chapter meeting with old friends and new at the Rabun County Rec Center pond.

Thanks to the club members who helped our newbies refine their casting technique — especially [Jeff Dredger](#) and Trey McFalls for their expert instruction, and to [Shady Creek Expeditions](#) for bringing some nice fly rods to the party.



Fishing Reports

Round the Bend

By Jim Kidd

ROUND THE BEND - recognize that term? Maybe not if you are not an original member of the Rabun Chapter of TU. It is a phrase that Doug Adams and the original group of Rabunites used for a day long trip on the Chattooga River from the Sims Fields to the Big Bend Falls. It was a trip many of us did in the early spring, or during the early campouts. A little history - this area of the Chattooga has water temperature issues during the summer, and as a result trout mortality is high. The Chattooga Coalition decided to try stocking the river via helicopter in the fall to see if the fish would carry through and grow during the winter and spring, making fish available for sport during the early part of the season, providing a backcountry experience on a large river.

Does this program work and does it meet its objectives? Well, lets see!

On June 3, of this year, my nephew, Joseph Grizzle, or Grizz, as he is known, decided to make the trip around the bend. Knowing this is an all day trip, we loaded up our fishing equipment, a traditional lunch of beanie weenies and crackers and plenty of water. The day was clear and very warm as we headed down the trail to the Sims Fields. The walk was approximately one mile. We then hit the river trail and walked up the river to the put in place. We jumped in the river, wet wading and commenced to fish. Joseph started with a dry and I used my favorite river fly, the Pats Rubber Leg with a beadhead, tied by the famous person by the name of Banker. Banker has since abandoned the Rabun Chapter for the gold Rush Chapter. The Banker can tell stories about the bend as well! He has been there and done that!

The river level was 1.2, the water clear and cool, and the environment beautiful. Nobody else was near or on the river. The fish were fat and healthy, strong to the hook, and best of all, very hungry! The majority of fish caught were 9-10 inch colorful rainbows. We landed several wild browns and one rainbow around 13 inches. The majority of the fish wanted the rubber legs, but more than a few went for the dry fly. The fish tended to be in the pockets and pools and not so much on the rock bottom flats. This is normal as they seem to prefer this habitat in this section of the river. About half way through, we stopped for a traditional lunch with time to catch up with my nephew and his doings. He is starting a brewery in Monroe GA, with the title beer being Grizz Beer. Grizz also took time to investigate the bottom of the river later in the day. I marked it as a 7 on the dunking scale.

Nine hours of wading later, these two river fishermen climbed out of the river at the Big Bend Falls and hiked up the Chattooga Trail to the Sawmill Hole. From there, we started the killer climb up the ridge to the end of the Big Bend Road and our truck. I am not sure I can make this trip again in the future, but I did want one more trip for old time sakes. It was a rough and tiring day, but well worth it.

Continued next page.

Fishing Reports, cont.

The helicopter program is a huge success and worthy of support from the local TU chapters. It provides an unique experience, and excellent fishing. The many fish we caught were healthy and in good shape. There are very few places that one can experience quality fly fishing in a remote location, on a big river in a beautiful setting. It is true that many of these fish will not survive the summer, but the helicopter program is meeting its objectives. Joseph and I can vouch for this.

Be aware that this is a hard day, and is in a very remote location. One needs to be in good shape, take plenty of water, have a fishing companion, and fish safely. Phones are useless, except to take photos. I am thankful that I am still able to do a trip like this, and enjoy and experience this section of the RIVER once more. While fishing, during the day, my thoughts turned to many of our friends that have gone around the bend - Doug, Tom, Yank, Bill, and the others that I have done this trip with in the past. I am sure they would approve of what this section has become through good fishery management and TU support.



[CLICK HERE](#) for a video of this trip!

June 25, 2024

Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 371
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Re: Donation for Smithgall Woods Education Programs

Dear Chapter Members,

Thank you, so much, for your most generous donation of \$1000 to the Smithgall Woods Regional Education Center (SWREC). With this wonderful donation, the SWREC will be able to continue providing top-notch environmental education to the 26 counties of WRD Region II.

This year has been an amazing one for education through the SWREC. We have broken all of our previous records (again) in number of programs given and persons reached. So far this year, Smithgall has already given 1135 programs to 39,588 wonderful attendees! All of this is made possible by wonderful support from fabulous people like the Rabunites. We are excited to continue our educational efforts in the coming year, all thanks to you!

Sincerely,



Kathy Church
Wildlife Interpretive Specialist
Smithgall Woods State Park



Smithgall Woods
State Park





Dear Rabun Trout Unlimited Board of Members,
Thank you so much for your generous gift to Casting for Recovery Georgia.
We held our 1st retreat of 2024 in early May at Smithgall Woods. Our 2nd retreat of the year will be in November and will be specifically for women who have had a diagnosis of Stage IV metastatic breast cancer.
100% of your donation will be used to help fund that retreat.

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: Robert Miller from Sky Valley, GA. *Welcome, Robert!*

Current Chapter membership: 172 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

Volunteers Needed to Sample a Stream

Jeff Wright, the Southern Appalachians Project Manager of Trout Unlimited, has asked for a couple of volunteers that like blue line fishing. He is interested to see if anyone would be interested in fishing Reed Mill Creek and give a report back regarding what they catch

See his email below.

Tammy,

I have a unique opportunity for a couple volunteers that like blue line fishing. We are looking at potential culvert replacement on Reed Mill Creek and Overflow Creek Road, near the West Fork campground. I sent an email to Leon to see what trout were in there. He indicated that their records indicate Brook Trout were in Reed Mill and that he caught them there but the information is 20 years old. It'd be great if someone interested in helping would go out to fish the creek and report back what they catch. If there is anyone in the chapter that would be interested, you can have them get in touch with me.

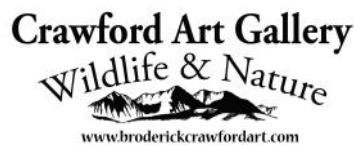
Sincerely,

Jeff Wright

Southern Appalachians Project Manager | Trout Unlimited

jeff.wright@tu.org | [636.734.2055](tel:636.734.2055)

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.

JULY 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
Golden Stonefly	All Month	E am	8-12 Ginger Stimulator 6-10 Golden Stonefly Nymph
Brown Stonefly	All Month	E to mid am	10-12 Brown Stonefly Nymph
Light Cahill Mayfly	All month	E to L pm	12-14 Light Cahill 12-14 Light Cahill Nymph
Trico Mayfly	Mid-Late	Mid am	20 Parachute Trico
Trico Spinner Fall	Mid-Late	Late am	20-22 Polywing Black Spinner
Midges	All month	All day	18-20 Griffiths Gnat 18-20 Midge Pupa
Terrestrial	All month	All day	Ants, beetles, crickets, inch worms, etc.

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Foam Grasshopper

HOOK: Dry Fly Hook #10-16

BODY: Peacock Herl or Dubbing of your Choice

BACK: Black, Brown, or Yellow Foam Rubber

WING: White Antron, Elk Hair, or Deer Hair

LEGS: Medium Rubber Leg Material to Match Foam Color



IT'S TERRESTRIAL TIME OF YEAR! USE HOPPERS, BEETLES OR ANTS. TRY DROPPING A SMALL CRAYFISH OFF THE BACK AND HOLD ON!

See you on The River! Terry

Prez Notes

Recently, I returned to my hometown of Ellijay, GA for homecoming at the church I grew up in, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. It was a great time of reminiscing with friends and family. A common topic of conversation was about my Dad, Hoover Tankersley. He was well known and loved in the Gilmer County area. Among many other things, my Dad was an avid fly fisherman, turkey hunter and ginseng hunter. Maybe telling you a little of my Dad you will get an idea of where my love of the outdoors originated.

When he was young Dad would sneak out of the house to fish every time my grandfather would go to town. My grandfather thought fishing was a waste of time, money, and cooking oil. They were dirt poor back in the Depression. My grandmother would always clean and cook the fish for my Dad to eat before my grandfather would come back home. Dad loved catching and eating fish!

Dad served in World War II in the US Coast Guard and he traveled to the Solomon Islands, Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal. I think his service in the Coast Guard may have been the first time he ever saw the ocean. I'm sure he was trying to figure out a way to get a hook and line over the Coast Guard Cutter's side to see what would take his hook!

After he got home he married my Mom, Anne, and he taught her how to fish. Raising a family didn't leave much money for fancy vacations; instead we went camping and fishing all over the mountains of North Georgia. Once they were retired they would often travel and fish lakes for crappie, streams for trout and the ocean for red snapper. I recall coming home once from college expecting a warm welcome only to find they were gone to Florida fishing!

An article about my Dad appeared in the May, 1996 issue of Georgia Outdoor News, entitled "Late Season Turkey Tips from a North Georgia Mountain Man". He was 75 years old when the article was written. He passed away in 2006 at the age of 86. I miss him greatly.

So now I am retired. I like to think that my Dad's legacy lives on through me. Pat and I are trying to pack in the good times while we are in good health, making memories to live on in our old age. In a couple of weeks we are headed to Montana for camping and fishing. Life is good for us and we wish the same for you and your family.

Prez Tammy



Yes, that's me in the background!

