



TIGHT LINES

November 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

November, 2024 Rabun Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, November 19

Fellowship Hall of Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church
8397 Wolffork Road, Rabun Gap, GA

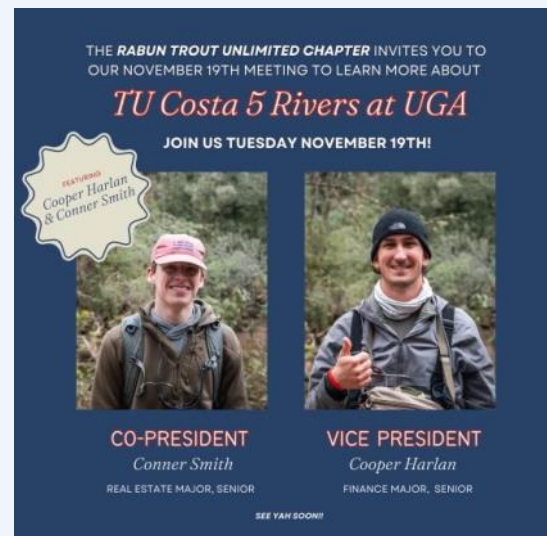
Fellowship starts at 6:30 pm, Program starts at 7:00 pm

“Dawgs Love Trout - UGA 5 Rivers Chapter” presented by Conner Smith, Co-President and Cooper Harlan, Vice President

Join us to give a Rabunite welcome to members of the UGA TU Costa 5 Rivers Club. The young Dawgs will tell us about their group's mission, activities both on and off the water, and future goals.

We have supported this club for several years through donations of waders and other gear -- come out and support them in person at our monthly meeting!

A little history: The UGA 5 Rivers club is one of more than 100 TU-affiliated college fly fishing clubs that promote cold water conservation. The UGA club began in 2016 with 20 members and has now grown to over 70 active members. In 2021, the group received the Silver Trout award from Trout Unlimited for its contributions to the Crayfish creek restoration project on the Chattahoochee River near Buford, GA.



Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- Friday, Nov 1. **Georgia Delayed Harvest Trout Season begins.** [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Friday, Nov 1. **South Carolina Delayed Harvest Trout Season begins.** [CLICK HERE](#) 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](#) or see page 8 for more information.
- Saturday, Nov 16. **Streamside Clean-Up Conservation Project.** Meet at GA Hwy 28 bridge (Russell Bridge) at the South Carolina side parking lot at 10:00 am. Stay and fish the Delayed Harvest Section of the Chattooga River afterwards. See page 9 or contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, November 19. **Rabun Chapter Monthly Chapter Meeting.** Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Social starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. See page 1 or contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Saturday, November 23. **5 Rivers UGA Chapter Ladies Fishing Event.** Lady volunteers needed to assist students with fishing. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, November 26. **Rabun 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.
- Saturday, Dec 7. **Quarterly Georgia Council Trout Unlimited Meeting.** Anyone can attend. 9:00 am. US Forest Service office, Gainesville, GA. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **There will be no monthly Chapter meeting in December.**
- Tuesday, December 17. **Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner.** Conference Center at the Dillard House, Dillard, GA. Meet at 6:00 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$44.00 per person, RSVP to [Pat Hopton](#) by December 9. See page 6 for more information.
- Saturday, Jan 18, 2025. **38th Annual Rabun Rendezvous.** Rabun County Civic Center, Clayton, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) or see page 4 for more information. *Note new date and venue.*
- Friday, January 31—Sunday, February 2, 2025. **Atlanta Fly Fishing Show.** Gas South Convention Center, Duluth, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!

Rabun Rendezvous – NEW LOCATION!

Event: 2025 Rabun Rendezvous

Location: Rabun County Civic Center, Clayton, GA

When: Saturday, January 18, 2025

Time: Event begins at 4:30 pm

Please join us for the 2025 Rabun Rendezvous at the Rabun County Civic Center in Clayton, GA. Due to renovations at The Dillard House, the location was changed. The Foxfire Boys will be in attendance providing their special brand of Bluegrass Music, great deals on items in the Silent Auction and Bucket Raffle areas great fellowship and good food! More details to follow on the menu as these details are being finalized.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

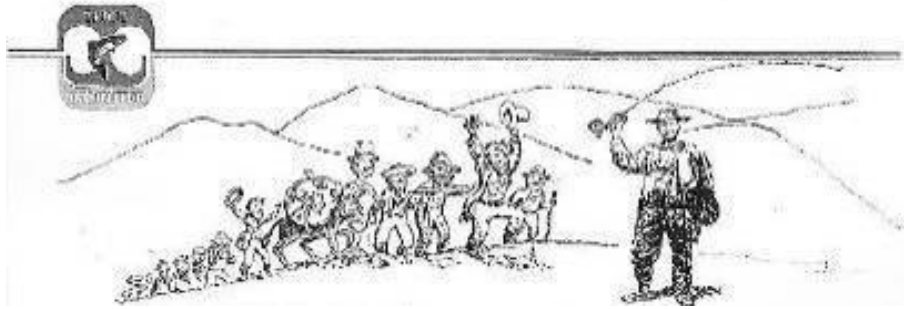
We need items donated to support the fundraising event, volunteers to help staff the areas and ensure a smooth event, and most importantly, **WE NEED YOU TO COME!** All the net proceeds go to fund Trout Unlimited activities. Funds are used to support, youth education and Trout Camp. GA DNR, Kids Fishing Events, Casting for Recovery, Project Healing Waters and many conservation efforts.

Please find attached a copy of the solicitation letter for the 2025 Rabun Rendezvous. This will help explain our activities to potential donors. Arts and crafts, donated trips, fishing and other outdoor equipment are just some of the items that are used to help raise funds.

Thanks for your support of the Rabun County Trout Unlimited Chapter and we hope to see you at the 2025 Rabun Rendezvous!

Ray King

Rabun TU Treasurer / Rendezvous Chair



The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited proudly presents
A Celebration of Rivers, Streams, Trout, and Trout Fishing!

Please join us for the 38th Annual **RABUN RENDEZVOUS**

"The Rendezvous was unlike anything before or since, a gathering of uninhibited men down from the mountains. The event attracted perhaps a hundred mountain men, their Indian wives, and assorted visiting tribesmen. Amusements included gambling, drinking, storytelling – continuing day and night." Quote from [The Mountain Men](#), by George Laycock.

WHEN: Saturday, January 18, 2025. *Note change of date from previous years.*

WHERE: The Rabun County Civic Center, located 201 West Savannah Street, Clayton, GA. *Note change of location from previous years.*

WHO: Everyone! The more the better! Anyone interested in conserving and protecting our cold-water resources, including their families, friends, and all who love cold streams, trout, and trout fishing.

SOCIAL: Doors open at 4:00 pm.

The Foxfire Boys will again provide their 'down home' style of bluegrass picking and singing for your enjoyment from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. CD's will be available for purchase.

Raffle and silent auction items will be available for your chance of purchase. We welcome donations of raffle and auction items!

DINNER: A variety of barbeque meats and delicious vegetables and deserts, all made by [Blue Hound Barbeque](#), Dillard GA, will be served at 6:30 pm. It is a serve yourself buffet and you will not leave hungry!

COST: \$40 for adults and \$25 for youth age 15 and younger. Cash, check, AMEX, VISA or MasterCard are accepted. Pay at the door when you arrive, no advance tickets sales.

LODGING: Make lodging reservations on your own. There are no special rates available connected with the Rendezvous. [CLICK HERE](#) for a listing of Rabun County hotels.

The 2024 Rabun Rendezvous provided financial support for the following: GA Council Youth Trout Camp; Sponsoring youth to attend Trout Camp; GA Department of Natural Resources Smithgall Woods Conservation Education Program; US Forest Service Kid's Fishing Event at Tallulah River; Fly-Fishing 101 educational event; Helicopter stocking program; In-stream habitat improvement on a brook trout stream; Casting for Recovery; Fly Fishing for Vets; National TU's Youth Education, First Cast, Embrace-A-Stream, Griffiths Circle, and Southeast Lands program; and GA Council Conservation fund.



September 20, 2024

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited is planning our annual fund raising event and we are asking for your support. For the 38th year we will host the famous "RABUN RENDEZVOUS" to be held on January 18, 2025, at the Rabun County Civic Center, Clayton, GA. The venue has changed due to the renovations in process at The Dillard House, Dillard, GA. Along with a buffet meal and great bluegrass music, we will have a silent auction and bucket raffle.

Our Chapter is committed to protecting and improving the cold-water fisheries in our area and supporting other chapters in their efforts. However, it takes funds to provide the support, equipment, and expenses required to carry out this mission. The annual Rabun Rendezvous is our main source of funding for these efforts.

Here are a few examples of the projects we accomplished with the funds received from this year's fundraising and past Rendezvous events:

- Financial support for GA Council Trout Unlimited Youth Trout Camp;
- Sponsoring youngsters to attend the Trout Unlimited Youth Trout Camp;
- Financial support of the GA Department of Natural Resources Smithgall Woods Conservation Education Program;
- Financial support for the Kid's Fishing Event at Tallulah River (US Forest Service);
- Financial support for Black Rock State Park Fishing Rodeo
- Fly-Fishing 101 Education Event
- Financial support for Casting for Recovery
- Financial support for Project Healing Waters
- Financial support for Georgia Wildlife Federation
- Five Rivers Collegiate Support
- TU Embrace-A-Stream Program
- And Assistance on USFS Projects, e.g., stream clean-up, trout habitat enhancement and stream bank restoration (Reed Creek & Double Bit efforts).

With this letter we are respectfully asking you for a donation to support our mission of protecting and improving the cold-water fisheries in our area. We are appreciative of any donation, such as gift certificates or physical items that may be included in the raffles or auctions, or through cash donations. Appropriate recognition will be given to donors at both the event and through our monthly newsletter. Our non-profit Federal Tax Exempt 501(c)3 Tax ID Number is # 521766093 and our Georgia State Tax ID is # 067800056.

Please take time to visit www.rabuntu.org and look at the photos from past Rabun Rendezvous events and other activities. And of course, you and your family and friends are invited to attend this year's event!

Thank you for your consideration of support for the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Rabun Rendezvous fund raising event.

Sincerely;

Tammy Hopton, President
Email: teajatee@gmail.com

Ray King, Rendezvous Chair
Email: rking072074@gmail.com

PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TO:
Ray King, Board of Directors
Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Mailing Address:

121 Creek Road
Otto, NC 28763

UPS Shipping Address:

121 Creek Road
Otto, NC 28763



Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner

Who: All Chapter members and guests!

When: Tuesday, Dec 17

Where: The Conference Center, located at the Dillard House, Dillard, GA

Time: 6:00 pm

Cost: \$44 per person

Make checks payable to Rabun Chapter TU

Please RSVP to [Pat Hopton](#) by 12/9/24



Fall Chapter Campout!

The Rabun Chapter will hold its annual Fall Chapter Campout on Nov 13 -17, 2024 at Oconee State Park, just across the SC line from Rabun County. It's sure to be a great time for fishing and fellowship.

The Georgia Delayed Harvest trout season begins Nov 1 and the Chattooga River should be well-stocked by the time of our campout. Yee Haa!!!

Campsite #93 in the "Wooded Loop" will be the official gathering site for meals. Bring your own chair to sit around the fire! Campsites fill up fast this time of year, so don't delay in making your campsite reservations.

We will cook and eat breakfast and supper together every day and you are on your own for your noon meal. If you volunteer to cook a meal, then all meals are free for you. If you don't cook a meal, then you pay \$5 for each meal you eat to the cook. Now that's a deal! Let Terry Rivers know of the meal you wish to cook, and what meals you plan to eat so the cooks can plan the meals. And hey! - if you don't want to camp, just come by for a meal or sit by the fire! Friday supper is "*Bring Your Own Steak and Potato*" night!

If you have questions or plan to cook or eat a meal, contact your camp host by email [Terry Rivers](mailto:TerryRivers) or at 706-782-7419. To make campsite reservations, [CLICK HERE](#).

Let's have a big turnout.... see you there!



"Poking at a campfire with a stick is one of life's great satisfactions."

— Patrick F. McManus

"That's right."

— Russ Tyre

GA Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Streams: Open Nov. 1

Are you ready to Go TROUT Fish Georgia? Beautiful weather and fantastic scenery await you in the northern part of the state, and beginning in November, trout fishing on Georgia's delayed harvest trout streams will be in full swing, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

While trout fishing can be found year-round in Georgia, there are five trout streams that are seasonally managed under special regulations called Delayed Harvest (DH) to increase angler success. These streams have catch-and-release regulations from November 1-May 14 and are stocked monthly by WRD and other partner agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and South Carolina DNR. This combination of stocking and catch/release allows for good trout catch rates and high angler satisfaction.

Between November 1 - May 14, anglers on all delayed harvest streams are restricted to single hook, artificial lures. Beginning May 15, the general regulations to designated trout waters then apply to those streams.

This year, five delayed harvest streams will be stocked with trout. These streams include:

- **Chattahoochee River** from Sope Creek to US Highway 41 (Cobb Parkway).
- **Toccoa River** located on U.S. Forest Service land upstream of Lake Blue Ridge in Fannin County (from 0.4 miles above Shallowford Bridge to 450 feet above the Sandy Bottom Canoe Access).
- **Amicalola Creek** on the Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area (from Steele Bridge Road downstream to Georgia Hwy. 53).
- **Smith Creek** downstream of Unicoi Lake (Unicoi State Park).
- A portion of the **Chattooga River** (from Ga. Hwy. 28 upstream to the mouth of Reed Creek) on U.S. Forest Service land bordering South Carolina.

Stream Clean-Up Opportunity!

The Rabun Chapter will have a stream clean-up work project on Saturday November 16. We will meet up at the Highway 28 bridge across the Chattooga River, also known as the Russell Bridge at 10:00 am. There we will separate into teams and pick up trash up and down stream on both sides of the Chattooga River and along Highway 28.

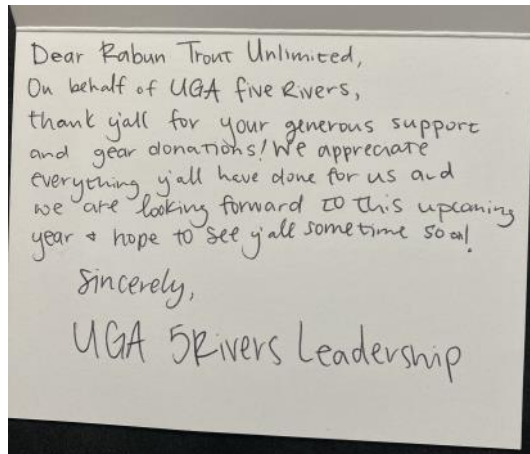
Trash bags will be provided, but we suggest you bring thick gloves to protect your hands. Contact Tammy by phone or text at (706) 982-1315 or by email at teajatee@gmail.com if you have questions. See you there!



Rabun Chapter Supports 5 Rivers Chapters!

The Rabun Chapter has recently made donations of waders and other fishing gear to the following Costa 5 River TU Student Chapters: University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, Young Harris College and North Spaulding County High School.

Thank You Note from UGA -



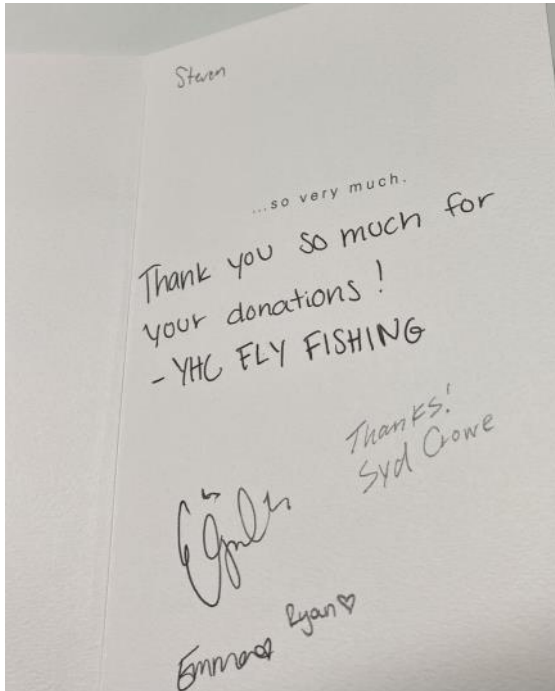
Thank You Note from North Spaulding County High School -

We are humbled by the gracious funds that our sponsoring chapter provides for us.

North Paulding Coldwater Conservation and Fly Fishing Club.



Thank You Note from Young Harris College -



Thank You Note from Georgia Tech -



Dear Mrs. Hopton,

On the behalf of the Georgia Tech 5 Rivers Club, I want to extend our heart felt thanks for your generous donation of waders. Your support will make a tremendous impact on our club by providing essential gear that will allow our members to further explore and enjoy our state's waters. These waders will help us continue to connect with nature and strengthen our efforts as we engage in conservation projects and of-course fly-fishing. As you well know, our clubs mission is to foster a deeper love for fly fishing and environmental stewardship. We truly appreciate your commitment to supporting young anglers and conservation advocates, and we look forward to continuing to collaborate with the Duke chapters. Thankyou again for your generosity and support.

Go jackets!!!

Drake Oakhill
President, Georgia Tech 5 Rivers

Prez Tammy Meets with New Fisheries Biologist

Rabun Chapter Prez Tammy Hopton recently met with the new GA Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist, James Miles. James is the Region 2 Cold Water Fisheries Biologist and is staffed out of the Burton Fish Hatchery. He succeeds Sarah Baker, who left the GA DNR to be a full-time mother.

James is a native of Hays, NC and received both a Bachelor's and Masters degree in Biology from Western Carolina University. Prior to coming to the GA DNR, he worked for the National Park Service at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park doing brook trout restoration work.

Tammy expressed to James the Rabun Chapter's willingness to assist the DNR in trout conservation and education work.

Welcome, James!



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

A few days ago someone introduced me to a visitor and the visitor immediately asked me if I was a fisherman and I told him no, that I was just a common, ordinary liar.

L.P. Cross
Ramblin' in Rabun
August 14, 1941

North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission Resumes Limited Stocking on Some Delayed Harvest Streams

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's (NCWRC) [Armstrong State Fish Hatchery](#) in McDowell County north of Marion sustained significant damage as a result of flooding and landslides during Hurricane Helene. Some of the hatchery's trout escaped during the flooding; however, most of the 600,000 fish of various sizes died when the storm compromised the water supply to the raceways and hatchery building. Currently, Armstrong State Fish Hatchery is closed indefinitely. Fisheries staff along with agency engineers continue to assess the damage and are developing plans to return the hatchery to normal operations.

While the damage to Armstrong is significant and will require extensive repairs to restore operations, the Bobby N. Setzer, Table Rock and Marion State Fish hatcheries received limited damage and are fully operational. Therefore, the Commission has decided to temporarily delay the already planned renovation to the Bobby N. Setzer State Fish Hatchery until the Armstrong is back fully operational to ensure stocking in Public Mountain Trout Waters, and staff at Setzer have begun to ramp trout production back up to full speed.

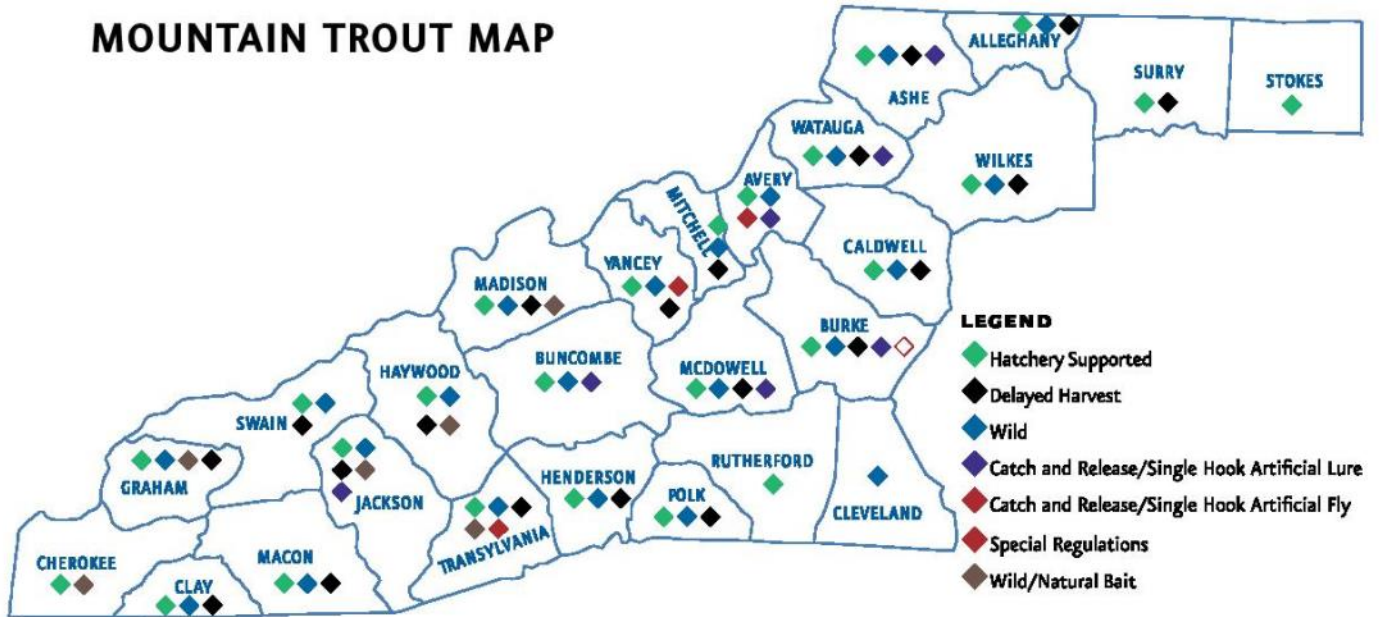
Commission biologists have assessed all Delayed Harvest Trout Water locations over the past few weeks to determine what areas may be safe to stock and for anglers to fish. According to Assistant Chief of Inland Fisheries Corey Oakley, "Staff will continue to evaluate Delayed Harvest Trout Water locations for accessibility to anglers. Every effort is being made to stock all accessible locations so that anglers, both from western North Carolina and who visit, can enjoy Public Mountain Trout Water streams in areas unaffected by Hurricane Helene."

"The tremendous work staff has done to get production back up at Setzer and to evaluate all of our Delayed Harvest Streams will enable us to stock some of our Delayed Harvest Trout Waters beginning the first week of November, and additional stockings will occur the first week of December," Oakley added. [Delayed Harvest Trout Water locations](#) that will be stocked can be found at ncwildlife.org/trout.

As information becomes available regarding Armstrong State Fish Hatchery's restoration and future Public Mountain Trout Waters stockings it will be posted on the agency's website at ncwildlife.org/trout.

[HUGE NEWS!!! NC Trout Fishing UPDATE after Hurricane Helene](#)

MOUNTAIN TROUT MAP

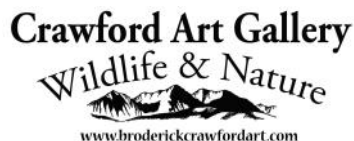


2024 DELAYED HARVEST STOCKING DATES

COUNTY	LOCATION	NOVEMBER (WEEK OF)	DECEMBER (WEEK OF)
Clay	Fires Creek	11/4–11/8	12/2–12/6
Graham	(Big) Snowbird Creek	11/4–11/8	12/2–12/6
Haywood	West Fork Pigeon River	11/4–11/8	12/2–12/6
Jackson	Tuckasegee River	11/4–11/8	12/2–12/6
Macon	Nantahala	11/4–11/8	12/2–12/6
Surry	Ararat River	11/4–11/8	12/2–12/6
	Mitchell River	11/4–11/8	12/2–12/6
Swain	Tuckasegee River	11/4–11/8	12/2–12/6
Transylvania	East Fork French Broad River	11/4–11/8	12/2–12/6
	Little River	11/4–11/8	12/2–12/6
Wilkes	East Prong Roaring River	11/11–11/15	12/2–12/6
	Stone Mountain Creek	11/11–11/15	12/2–12/6
	Reddies River	11/4–11/8	12/2–12/6
	Elk Creek	11/4–11/8	12/2–12/6

Dates listed are subject to change due to unexpected events, such as snow. Changes will be announced through press releases and social media.

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.*

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](#).

Rabun Chapter Membership Update

No new members this month.

Current Chapter membership: 168 adult members and 2 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

November Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies .</u>
Small Dun Caddis	All month	Mid am to Late pm	18 Brown or Grey Elk Hair Caddis 18 Grey Caddis Pupa
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
Midges	All month	All day	18-22 Griffiths Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa
None at all	All month	All day	Dredging Nymphs: 12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, Pheasant Tail

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Mylar Prince Nymph

HOOK: #12x Scud

HEAD: Gold Bead

TAIL: Brown Goose Biots

BODY: Peral Mylar and Copper Wire Palmered

THORAX: Peacock Hair

WING : White Goose Biots



Great attractor fly to use during the Delayed Harvest season! Drop it behind a dry fly or fish it under a strike indicator.

See you on The River! Terry

Prez Notes

Time to go fishing. It has been a long couple of months since I have been. Plus I am ready for this election season to be over, aren't you? I am writing this note before the votes have been counted. At this time, it is total toss up.

To all my friends in Trout Unlimited, I hope you are focused on the most important things in your lives. Mine are in this order: Faith, Family and Friends. Oh, and Fishing! So remember, after the last speeches are made and the last votes are counted, our friendships are much more important than politics.

Now, time to get to work! We all need to focus on the upcoming Rabun Rendezvous. This year's Rendezvous will be a little different. Instead of the Dillard House doing all the set-up and clean-up, it will be up to us to do all that this year at the Civic Center. Please volunteer to help. Just ask Ray King - I'm certain he would appreciate your help.

We also need your help with solicitation of the raffle and auction items. History has shown that donations that offer "experiences", such as fishing trips, golf outings, and the like, are much more desirable than the standard box of flies. Be creative! Think how you can offer experiences, like guided fishing trips, classes or cabin stays. Those are the items that get the most attention (and bids!).

Once you get a donation, take a digital picture of it and send it, along with a brief description of the donation, to either myself or Ray. You may hold onto the donation and bring it to the Rendezvous on the day of, or we can store it in the Chapter Storage unit.

Remember, this year's Rendezvous will be at a different location and on a different date. When you invite your friends, remind them of the date and venue change. There is a Rendezvous flyer on page 4 of this newsletter. Print it off and post it at your place of work, school, anywhere you can think of. Let's get the word out!

Thank you for all your efforts! I hope to see you on the river!

Prez Tammy