



TIGHT LINES

December 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

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

Pay at the door, checks payable to Rabun Chapter TU



Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- **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.
- **Saturday, Dec 14. Conservation Project at Hardman Farms-Chattahoochee River.** Sponsored by the GA Foothills Chapter. Meet at 10:00 am at the North Parking Lot of the Hardman Trail, Helen, GA. Bring a shovel and gloves. Contact [Jeff Durniak](#) for more information.
- **There will be no monthly Chapter or Board of Directors 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. See page 6 for more information.
- **There will be no monthly Chapter meeting in January.**
- **Tuesday, Jan 14, 2025. 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.
- **Saturday, Jan 18, 2025. 38th Annual Rabun Rendezvous.** Rabun County Civic Center, Clayton, GA. See pages 3-6 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.
- **Saturday, March 15, 2025. Quarterly Georgia Council Trout Unlimited Meeting.** Anyone can attend. 9:00 am. Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, Clayton Branch, Clayton, GA. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, March 22, 2025. Hoot on the Hooch.** Annual fund raising banquet for the GA Foothills Chapter. To be held at Helendorf Inn, Helen, GA. 5:30 pm. The winner of the 2025 Dream Trip Raffle will be announced. Contact Foothills Chapter President [Pat Berzsery](#) for more information.
- **Friday, April 25—Sunday, April 27, 2025. Trout Unlimited Eastern Regional Rendezvous.** Shepherdstown, WV. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

... this winter I'm determined for once to fish sensibly, and by that I mean in comfort, to try not only to match the hatch but also to match the weather.

Tom Sutcliffe, M.D.
Reflections on Fishing (1990)

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?

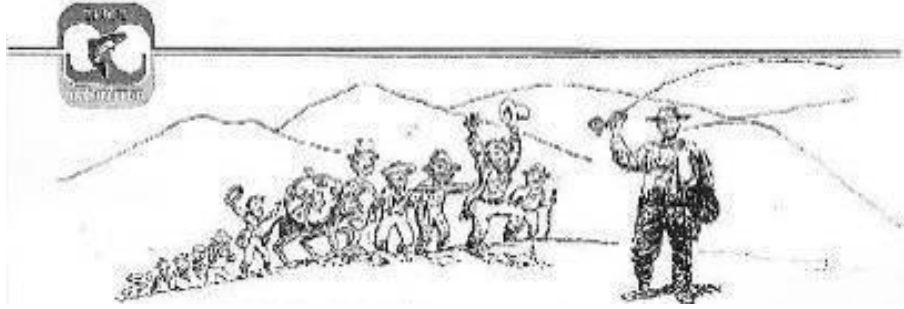
We need items donated to support the fundraising event, volunteers to help staff the areas and ensure a smooth event, and most importantly, **WE NEED YOU TO COME!** All the net proceeds go to fund Trout Unlimited activities. Funds are used to support, youth education and Trout Camp. GA DNR, Kids Fishing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



Rabun Rendezvous

38th
Annual

January 18, 2025

Rabun County Civic Center
201 W. Savannah St., Clayton

Get your tickets at the door!

Celebrating rivers, streams,
trout and trout fishing

Doors open 4:00 PM
Dinner, music, and
silent auction following

\$40 per person
\$25 youth 15 and under



More info at rabuntu.org



Rabun Chapter

Scenes from Previous 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.



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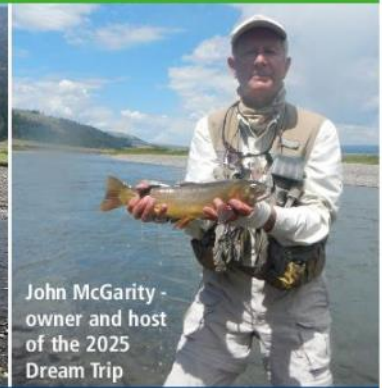
Time: 6:00 pm

Cost: \$44 per person

Make checks payable to Rabun Chapter TU



DREAM TRIP – FLY FISHING FOR TWO!



John McGarity - owner and host of the 2025 Dream Trip

GRAND PRIZE

"The 2025 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 20-25, 2025**
- **\$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.

- Temple Fork Outfitters BVK Fly Rod - 6 wt., 9'-length, 4-piece fly rod with travel case. Donated by The Atlanta Fly Fishing School. atlantaflyfishingschool.com
- A semi-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 2025 year. atlantaflyfishingschool.com
- Unguided half-day fishing at Nacoochee Bend for two anglers. Donated by Unicoi Outfitters. unicoioutfitters.com
- \$100 Gift certificate donated by the Mid-Georgia Chapter. georgiaTU.org
- \$100 Gift certificate donated by the Savannah River Chapter. georgiaTU.org
- Half-day trophy brown trout guided float trip for two on Chattahoochee River, valued at \$350. Donated by Chris Scalley of River Through Atlanta. riverthroughatlanta.com
- Full-day guided fly fishing wade trip for 2 people on Noontootla Creek. Donated by Noontootla Creek Farms in Blue Ridge, GA. ncfga.net
- 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. shadycreekexpeditions.com
- TWO DRAWS for Six Dozen Trout Flies each. Donated by the 12 TU Chapters in Georgia. georgiaTU.org



Jimmy Harris owner of Unicoi Outfitters



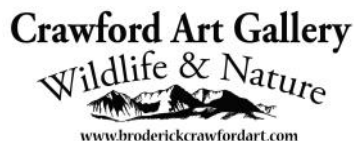
Host John McGarity (left) with 2024 winner Wendy Fountain (center) and Colt Fountain (right)



Scan here to purchase your tickets!

For complete rules and details visit www.georgiatu.org

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: 155 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

December Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies .</u>
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

Pat's Rubber Legs

HOOK: # 12-14 2X NYMPH

THREAD: MATCH CHENILLE

BODY: MEDIUM CHENILLE (YOUR CHOICE COLOR)

LEGS: MEDIUM RUBBER LEGS (YOUR CHOICE COLOR)



EFFECTIVE YEAR ROUND. IMITATES THE STONEFLY NYMPH, A COMMON TROUT FOOD IN SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN STREAMS.

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

Prez Notes

Christmas is right around the corner. This is always a busy time of year. It seems like there is always one more thing to do.

Well here is one more thing to think about doing... we need your help with gathering donations for the Rendezvous. This is how we raise money for the Chapter.

As you gather donations for the silent auction and bucket raffles, consider items or experiences that are out of the ordinary. Fishing trips or cabin rentals get the biggest returns. Be creative with ideas. Examples of out of the box ideas include baked goods, dog sitting, art classes or horse back rides.

If you do not have anything to contribute for the silent auction or bucket raffle or if you are not able to attend the Rendezvous and still want to help, please consider giving a monetary donation directly to the Chapter. Make checks payable to Rabun Chapter TU and mail them to Rabun Chapter, PO Box 371, Clayton, GA 30525.

Something else, Ray will need help the day of the event. He will need help with setting up and taking down tables, for example. There will be many other things he will need help with, I'm sure. Please contact Ray to offer your help.

I appreciate all that you are doing to prepare for the Rendezvous. But most importantly, I just want you to be there. It is always a treat to gather with my fishy friends!

I hope you have a chance to celebrate the season with friends and family. And maybe even go fishing on a warm winter day. I wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Prez Tammy



Prez Tammy, Ken Kellerman, Jack Wintle, and Nan O'Hara spent a day recently with Jay Shelton and the ladies from the 5 Rivers UGA Chapter fishing the Upper Chattahoochee River.



Prez Tammy presents a check for \$1,000 to Cathy Valancius, Treasurer for the GA Council TU. This donation will be used for conservation projects throughout the state.