



TIGHT LINES

January 2025 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](#)

No Rabun Chapter Meeting in January.
Instead, come join us at the

38th Annual Rabun Rendezvous!!

Saturday, January 18

Rabun County Civic Center,
201 West Savannah Street, Clayton, GA

\$40 per adult, \$25 per youth 15 and under

Doors open at 4:00 pm; Bluegrass music by The Foxfire Boys from 5:00-6:30; Dinner catered by Bluehound Barbeque starts at 6:30.

Great selection of bucket raffle and silent auction items!

See pages 3-7 for more information.

Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- **There will be no monthly Chapter meeting in January.**
- **Tuesday, Jan 14. 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. 38th Annual Rabun Rendezvous.** Rabun County Civic Center, Clayton, GA. See pages 3-7 for more information.
- **Friday, January 31—Sunday, February 2. Atlanta Fly Fishing Show.** Gas South Convention Center, Duluth, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- **Tuesday, February 18. Monthly Rabun Chapter Meeting.** Fellowship Hall of Saint James Episcopal Church, 260 Warwoman Road, Clayton, GA. Social starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Program: “Fly Tying for All Skill Levels”, presented by various Chapter fly tyers. All equipment and supplies will be provided. Important: nominations will be taken on Chapter officer vacancies, with a vote to be taken in March. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Tuesday, February 25. Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** Location to be determined. Starts at 7:00 pm. Anyone can attend. Nominations for Chapter vacancies will be discussed. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, March 15, 2025. Georgia Council Trout Unlimited Quarterly Meeting.** Anyone can attend. 9:00 am. Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, Covered Bridge Shopping Center, 46 Plaza Way, Clayton, GA. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Friday, March 15. Deadline for Trout Camp Applications.** See page 9 and 10 for more information.
- **Tuesday, March 18. Monthly Rabun Chapter Meeting.** Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, Covered Bridge Shopping Center, 46 Plaza Way, Clayton, GA. Social starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Program: “Meet the New District Ranger”, presented by Towy Tipton, USFS District Ranger of the Chattooga River Ranger District. Important: we will vote on Chapter officer vacancies. 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.

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?

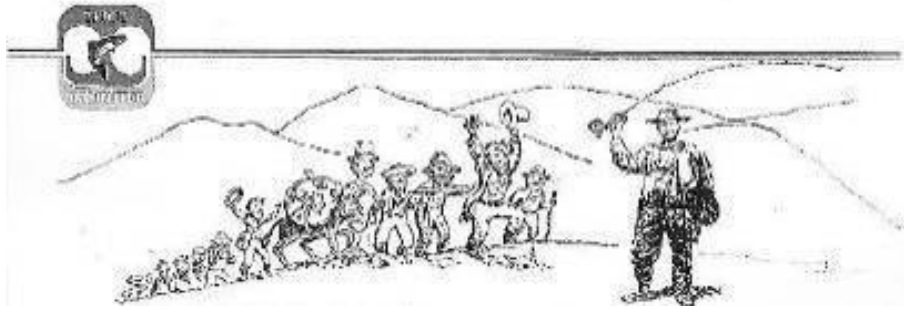
We need items donated to support the fundraising event, volunteers to help staff the areas and ensure a smooth event, and most importantly, **WE NEED YOU TO COME!** All the net proceeds go to fund Trout Unlimited activities. Funds are used to support, youth education and Trout Camp. GA DNR, Kids Fishing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

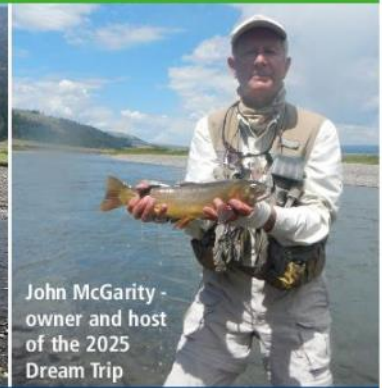
Scenes from Previous Rabun Rendezvous



“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.

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

Do You Know of a Youth That Wants to go to Trout Camp?

Each year the Rabun Chapter sponsors two youth to attend the Georgia Trout Camp. The Rabun Chapter will pay for the tuition for the two campers that it sponsors.

The Trout Camp is run by the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited with support from all twelve chapters. The 2025 Trout Camp will be held June 1-6 at the Tallulah Falls School, in Tallulah Falls, GA.

Trout Camp is for boys and girls between the ages of 13-15 where they learn and practice the sport of flyfishing, study sound conservation practices, and enjoy a fun and rewarding experience!

For more information on Trout Camp, visit the Georgia Council website [CLICK HERE](#).

To apply to Trout Camp, with the Rabun Chapter as your sponsor, fill out the application on page 10 and mail it to:

Charlie Breithaupt, Camp Coordinator

194 Kitchens Lane

Clayton, GA 30525

Applications for the Rabun Chapter sponsorship must be received by March 15, 2025.





Georgia Trout Camp 2025 Application

Please fill out the application below and give it to your local TU Chapter President.

You may complete an online application, see the website for details. www.georgiatu.org

Dates: June 1-6 (Sunday – Friday) Age: 13 – 15 years Fee: \$700.00

Includes room, board, and all activities for the five-day camp. In May, after your signed application and fee have been received, you will be sent a list of what to bring, as well as the required health and release forms. Please make your check payable to the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited. By submitting this application, the camper, if accepted, is committed to attending camp for the entire session.

**Deadline to apply: Set by each Chapter – Check with your local TU Chapter for details.
The application and payment must be in the Camp Coordinator’s office by April 15th.**

(Please Print)

Name _____

Name you wish to be called by _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Age at time of camp _____ Male _____ Female _____
(Must be within the ages of 13 – 15 at time of camp)

T-Shirt size (adult size only; circle one) S M L XL

I have a friend attending camp and we would like to room together.

His/her name is _____

Yes, my child is interested in conservation and the sport of fly fishing and has reached a level of maturity to enjoy spending 6 days and 5 nights away from home at camp.

Parent or guardian's signature

Print: Parent or guardian's name _____

Home Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Parent's Email _____ Parent's Emergency Phone _____

I am sponsored by: (each camper must be sponsored by one of the 12 TU Chapters in GA) If you don't have a sponsoring Chapter, please complete an online application and choose "GA Council," and your child will be put on our waitlist for any open spots.

The _____ Chapter of TU

President/Chapter or Trout Camp Representative

Signature

After completion – the application and fee will be forwarded by the sponsoring Chapter to the Camp Coordinator

Charlie Breithaupt, GA Trout Camp Coordinator 194 Kitchens Lane Clayton, GA 30525

For more information call: (706) 782-6954 or email: knc615@windstream.net

For information on the 12 TU chapters in GA go to www.georgiatu.org

Fishing Reports

My 2025 Goal: Catching a Trout on a Dry Fly in Each of the 12 Months! by Nanette O'Hara

My streak continues! Caught several trout on a dry fly in December. The orange stimulator did the trick.

Also caught fish on a double nymph rig, on a size 16 black midge or rainbow warrior. Winter fishing is awesome!



Fishing Reports, continued

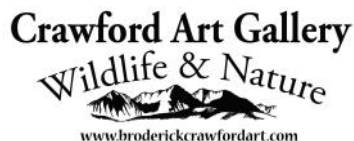
A New Years Tradition by Prez Tammy Hopton

Every year Pat and I rent a cabin at Smithgall Woods State Park during the week between Christmas and New Years Day. Mostly we just relax but we also spend time fishing Dukes Creek. This year we also went to the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River to fish and explore.

Although the fishing was good, the catching was tough in both places. I was skunked fishing the Chattahoochee but Pat managed to land a small stream-raised rainbow trout. I did manage to catch several good, hard fighting 12-14" rainbows in Dukes Creek, mostly near the picnic shelter. All that Pat caught in Dukes Creek were horny heads!



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: 148 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

January 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

Parachute Blue Wing Olive

HOOK: #14-22 Dry Fly

TAIL: Dun/Gray Hackle Feathers

BODY: Olive Dubbing

TPARACHUTE: Antron or White Calf Body Hair

WING : Dun/Gray Hackle



Great fly to have when things slow down during the winter months. On warm afternoons a hatch will usually come off. Size does matter!

See you on The River! Terry

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

The holidays may be over, but now Rendezvous season is here! We are busy with gathering donations for the silent auctions and bucket raffles. Have you contributed? Remember this is our main fundraising event of the year, so let's try to have as many good quality items as possible.

You should have gotten an email from Ray King asking for help with setting up the tables on the day prior to the Rendezvous. If you did not get the email, then be at the Civic Center on Friday, Jan 17 around 11:00 am. We will also need help taking everything down on Saturday evening right after the Rendezvous. Please contact Ray if you are able to help.

What else? How about a New Year, new challenges and new adventures. I am looking forward to continuing our traditional yearly Chapter events and maybe changing it up with some new ones. If you have any ideas for monthly program meetings, outings, etc just let me know.

Like last year, our meeting locations may be different from month to month, so please stay connected on Facebook, Instagram and our website to see what we are doing and where we are doing it.

But first things first: January is for the Rabun Rendezvous. Plan to come and bring a friend or two with you and let's have some fun! And what can be more fun than visiting with old friends, making new friends, listening to live bluegrass music, bidding an all kinds of good stuff, and enjoying delicious Bluehound Barbeque!

I'm looking forward to seeing you there. You won't be able to miss me—I'll be the one with barbeque sauce down the front of my shirt!

Prez Tammy