



# TIGHT LINES

## February 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](#)

### February, 2025 Rabun Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, February 18  
Parish Hall of Saint James Episcopal Church  
260 Warwoman Road, Clayton, GA  
Fellowship starts at 6:30 pm, Program starts at 7:00 pm

### “Fly Tying with Friends”

Whether you're brand new to fly tying or an old hand, you'll have fun swapping fish tales and fly recipes at our February meeting.

Bring your own tying vise or use one of ours for hands-on skills sessions. Stations demonstrating proven trout flies used in our area will be set up and materials provided for those who haven't yet squirreled away a lifetime supply.

Note change from our regular meeting location. We'll be gathering in the Parish Hall at the rear of the church. Park in the lot off Rickman Street.



## **Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!**

- Tuesday, February 18. **Monthly Rabun Chapter Meeting.** Parish 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. Important: nominations will be taken on Chapter officer vacancies, with a vote to be taken in March. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Saturday, February 22. **Annual Budget Planning Meeting.** Anyone can attend. 9:00 am in the Community Room at the Rabun County Library. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, February 25. **Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** 7:00 pm at Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church. 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 6 and 7 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 Tody 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 event 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.
- Saturday, April 7. **ORCTU Spring Banquet.** Annual fund raising event for the Oconee River Chapter. To be held at Flinchum’s Phoenix, Athens, GA [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Saturday, April 12. **Low Country Boil.** Annual fund raising event for the Cohutta Chapter. To be held at Lake Allatoona. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Saturday, April 26. **Blue Ridge Trout and Adventures Festival, aka Trout Fest 2025.** Annual fund raising event for Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter, among others. To be held at Downtown City Park in historic Blue Ridge, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- Friday, April 25—Sunday, April 27, 2025. **Trout Unlimited Eastern Regional Rendezvous.** Shepherdstown, WV. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

## Scenes from the 38th Annual rabun Rendezvous



### Preliminary Results from the 38th Annual Rabun Rendezvous

Attendance: 131 adults and 7 youth

Net Receipts: \$7,035.00

**Way to go, Rabunites! Waaa Hooo!!!**

***Thank you!* To all the donors of prizes for the Rabun Rendezvous! We appreciate your support.**

Gene Hansard	Unicoi Outfitters, Helen, GA
Holly and Derek Maddox	Hatch Camp and Art Farm
Steve Hudson	Peter Croes
Smithgall Woods State Park	Nanette O'Hara
Kent Wilson	Mike Fuller
Shady Creek Expeditions	Ron Thomas
Jeff Durniak	Amrine Equipment Sales and Rentals
Marcia Miller, GA Women's Flyfishers	Home Depot, Clayton, GA
Patricia May	Big Green Egg Company, Atlanta, GA
Brooks Adams Family	Justin English
Salon 529	Atlanta Fly Fishing School
Greg Corbett	Fish Tales, Franklin, NC
Judy Williams	Doug Adams Estate
Garland Stewart Estate	Reeves Fly Shop, Clayton, GA
Charlie and Kathy Breithaupt	Rick O'Hara
Apple Mountain Golf Club	Dairy Queen, Clayton, GA
Alpine Bakery	Russ Tyre Estate
Terry Rivers	Alley's Ole' Store
Sunday Diner	Ray King
Wayne Prosser	Stephanie Marchant
Carla Gignilliat Art	Susan Patton
Jimmy Miller, Savannah River Chapter	Friends of Black Rock Mountain State Park
Jack Wintle	Frank Tolbert
Terry Seahorn	Maria Brana
Sherrie Kennedy	Reeves Building Supply

***Thank you!* To all the donors of prizes for the Rabun Rendezvous! We appreciate your support.**

Pat Hopton Honey

Moonrise Distillery

Timpson Creek Art Gallery

Hillside Orchard Farms

O'Reilly Auto Parts

Mark of the Potter

Mountain Grill and Bakery

Alpharetta Outfitters

Outdoor 76, Clayton, GA

Cloud 9 Salon

Tammy Hopton

Mane Design

Ken Kellerman

Brian Weeks

Rusty Bike Cafe

Manrique's Mexican Restaurant

Mike Sobaski

Karen Durniak

Bill Egeland

Kyle Burrell

Jenkins

Boland

Tom West

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a non-profit organization registered as a 501 (c)3, so all donations are tax-deductible. Our Federal Tax ID Number is 521766093 and our Georgia State Tax ID Number is 06780056.

### **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](http://www.facebook.com/rabuntu)

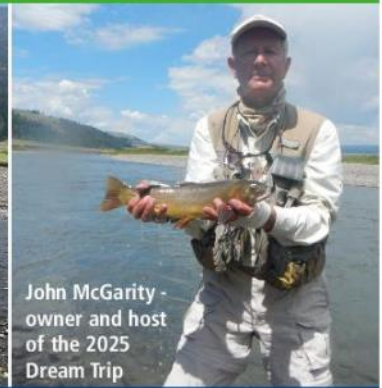
Follow us on Instagram at [@rabunchaptertu](https://www.instagram.com/rabunchaptertu)

Check out our website at [www.rabuntu.org](http://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](mailto:oharacomm@gmail.com)



# 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](http://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](http://atlantaflyfishingschool.com)
- Unguided half-day fishing at Nacoochee Bend for two anglers. Donated by Unicoi Outfitters. [unicoioutfitters.com](http://unicoioutfitters.com)
- \$100 Gift certificate donated by the Mid-Georgia Chapter. [georgiaTU.org](http://georgiaTU.org)
- \$100 Gift certificate donated by the Savannah River Chapter. [georgiaTU.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://shadycreekexpeditions.com)
- TWO DRAWS for Six Dozen Trout Flies each. Donated by the 12 TU Chapters in Georgia. [georgiaTU.org](http://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](http://www.georgiatu.org)



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

This year the Rabun Chapter will sponsor one youth to attend the Georgia Trout Camp. The Rabun Chapter pays the tuition, except \$50, for the camper that it sponsors.

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 7 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](http://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 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**(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](mailto:knc615@windstream.net)

For information on the 12 TU chapters in GA go to [www.georgiatu.org](http://www.georgiatu.org)



## Fishing Reports

In lieu of fishing reports, we bring to you this true story, as told to The Flatlander by the Ole' Rabunite.

### "The Acorn"

Sitting on the riverbank late in the fall, the Ole' Rabunite noticed a little squirrel scampering around a large oak tree on the opposite side of the river. Suddenly, the squirrel spied a large, fat acorn laying on a flat rock in the middle of the stream. With careful calculations the squirrel looked over the situation, ran up the tree trunk and out an overhanging limb. Approaching the end of the limb as it bent down and over the rock, the little squirrel leaped off, grabbing his prize.

Relieved of the squirrel's weight, the branch returned to it's original position, leaving the rodent stranded. Unperplexed, he made a great jump for the limb, missed, and fell to the water. Quicker than the old man could blink a streamlined form broke the surface and gobbled down the squirrel in one gulp! And then silently disappeared beneath the now quiet water.

Rubbing his chin as he thought about what he had just witnessed, the old man saw the big brown trout slowly surface, swim up to the rock, and return the acorn.

*And you don't have to believe it if you don't want to!*

### Rabun Chapter Membership Update

One new member this month: Jerome Malek from Rabun Gap, GA. Welcome, Jerome!  
Current Chapter membership: 150 adult members and 2 youth members.

### ***Nominations to be Voted On During March Meeting***

The Rabun Chapter Board of Directors respectfully submits the following slate of officers to fill upcoming vacancies on the Chapter Leadership roster. Any Chapter member may nominate any other qualified persons to these positions. A vote for these positions will occur at the upcoming March Chapter meeting.

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>To Serve Through</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>
Director	March, 2029	Jack Wintle

**Click on the Images and Visit the Websites of our Sponsors**



*The Dillard House*



***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 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](#) Scouts Liaison
- [Pat Hopton](#) Tight Lines Editor
- [Pat Hopton](#) Memorials
- [Nannete O'Hara](#) Social Media Chair

## February Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
Black Stonefly	All month	Late am to Mid pm	18-20 Black Elk Hair Caddis or Griffiths Gnat 16-18 Black Stone Nymph or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Small Dun Caddis	Late month	Late am to Mid pm	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis 18 Hairs Ear Nymph
Quill Gordon	Late month	Late am to Mid pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph
Blue Wing Olive 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

**WD 40**

**HOOK:** #14-20 Scud Hook

**TAIL:** Wood Duck Fibers

**BODY:** Grey Thread

**THORAX:** Grey Dubbing

**WING CASE:** Wood Duck Flanks

**HEAD:** Grey Thread or Silver Tungsten Bead



Great fly to use anytime during the winter months as a dropper.

*See you on The River! Terry*



## **Prez Notes**

Do you feel it?? Spring is in the air... but we all know winter will be back, so don't put away your warm clothes just yet. It is hard to resist. I know many of you went to the Atlanta Fly Fishing Show and got the bug. We are blessed to live where we can fish pretty much any-time of year but Spring is the best! I'm looking forward to the hatches and wet wading!

Thank you to all you contributed to the Rendezvous! We had the challenge this year of a different date, food, and location but overall I think we did well! The BOD and I appreciate you giving us input to how to make it even better. Believe it or not, we are already putting forward plans for next year's event. Please help us by 'thinking outside the box' about donations. What could we offer that would be new and exciting? We need to start now so we can make this happen. Please contact myself or Ray King to offer your help in this process.

We are planning our yearly calendar. As you hopefully know, we are in the process of changing meeting locations and times. Please, check the calendar and schedule so you don't miss anything. We will also be having several conservation opportunities, so please help us move our initiative forward. We all LOVE fishing. So of course we all want our streams and rivers to be clean and cold so the beautiful trout can thrive! We just sometimes need to put some work in for this to happen.

A few things for February: we will be having our meeting at the St. James Episcopal Church and our Budget Meeting will be at the Rabun County Library. Next month, mark your calendars for the Georgia Council meeting which will be held at the Food Bank on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in how the Council works this would be an easy way to check it out!

Please remember to purchase your tickets for the DREAM TRIP! Georgia Council pays for Trout Camp with this fundraiser, so it is vital we contribute. Plus, the Rabun Chapter will get a percentage of the total amount contributed to our Chapter. The grand prize is a hosted and guided fly fishing trip in beautiful Montana! There are lots of other great prizes to be had. So please don't forget to get your tickets!

See you all at our fly tying meet and greet on the 18<sup>th</sup>!

*Prez Tammy*