



# TIGHT LINES

## March 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

### March, 2025 Rabun Chapter Meeting “Meet the Ranger”

Tuesday, March 18  
Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, Community Room  
Covered Bridge Shopping Center, 46 Plaza Way, Clayton, GA  
Fellowship starts at 6:30 pm, Program starts at 7:00 pm

Come join your friends at the Rabun Chapter to hear Mrs Tipton talk about exciting opportunities for continuing and enhancing the partnership between the Forest Service and Trout Unlimited in the conservation of our local cold water resources.



The Food Bank provides a great service to residents of Northeast Georgia. Please consider bringing a donation of canned food to the meeting to support their mission. A list of suggested items is included on page 17.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** We are all aware of the current divisions regarding politics in our country. This Chapter meeting is to discuss conservation, not politics. Out of respect for Mrs Tipton and her position as a government employee, any questions, comments, or opinions with a political aspect will not be allowed at this meeting.

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

- **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 11 and 12 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. See pages 1 and 4 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](#) or see page 7 for more information.
- **Saturday, March 22. Sweep the Hooch.** Annual river cleanup on the Chattahoochee River. Sponsored by the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, April 5. Spring Sweep.** Annual river cleanup on the Chattooga River. Sponsored by the Andrew Pickens Ranger District, Forest Service. See page 8 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. Rabunite 101.** Beginning flyfishing class. To be held at the Rabun County Recreation Center, Clayton, GA from 8:30 am—1:00 pm. \$25 per student. Contact [Charlie or Kathy Breithaupt](#) for more information or see page 9.
- **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.
- **Monday, April 28 - Sunday, May 4. Annual Rabun Chapter Spring 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 10 for more information.

## 38<sup>TH</sup> RABUN RENDEZVOUS REPORT FROM RAY KING

Summary Results from the 38th Annual Rabun Rendezvous

Attendance: **138 Total** (Adults - 131 and Youth - 7)

Net Receipts: \$7,000.00 (approximately, following expenses)

### **Thanks to all who made the 2025 Rabun Rendezvous successful!**

The Rabun TU Chapter celebrated our 38th Annual Rabun Rendezvous this year! It was cold. Ice remained on the ground from the previous weekend's snow and sub-freezing temperatures. The 2025 Rendezvous was different, as changes in venue and meals occurred.

Special thanks go to Blue Hound Barbecue for their great catering job and to Amanda Crane, Director, Rabun County Events & Venues, who coordinated the use of the Rabun County Civic Center. The Civic Center allowed us to be in one room this year, provided great sound for announcements and the music of The Foxfire Boys.

We saw several familiar faces and met new folks in attendance. We felt the presence of the missing, but not forgotten members, of our TU family in "Around the Bend." We are indeed blessed to be part of a community who loves the outdoors.

Thanks to all who were able to attend the Rabun Rendezvous! Those of you who were not there, missed a great time and we hope to see you next year. Come be part of our community!

A special thank you is due to all the volunteers from the Rabun TU Chapter who donated their time and resources to make this year's Rabun Rendezvous a success. They worked tirelessly to solicit great donations from our friends and businesses who support the TU efforts, participated in the event set-up, and worked as runners in the Silent Auction and Bucket Raffles and staffed the Registration desk. Great support was provided by our college students of Five Rivers Chapters, from University of Georgia and Georgia Tech University. I cannot thank you enough!

A key to our success, in addition to our members and friends, are the individuals, organizations and businesses who made donations to this year's Rabun Rendezvous. A fantastic slate of donated items: fishing gear; art-work; custom wood working; gift certificates to restaurants, golf courses, and salons; clothing, and cash donations. We offer our thanks for your assistance both in advertising and financial support of the Rendezvous.

### **Rabun Rendezvous Donor List:**

The Doug Adams estate; The Adams Family - Brooks, Amanda, Avril and Calder Adams; Amanda Crane, Director, Rabun county Events and Venues (Clayton, GA); Alley's Ol' Store (Lakemont, GA); Alpharetta Outdoors (Alpharetta, GA); Alpine Bakery (Alpharetta, GA) Amrine Equipment & Rentals (Clayton, GA); Apple Mountain Golf Club (Clarkesville, GA); Mack Martin (Atlanta Fly Fishing School); Blue Hound Barbecue (Dillard, GA); Kathy and Charlie Breithaupt; The Big Green Egg, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) – Special thanks to Maria Rodeghiero; Black Rock Buddies Group (Black Rock State Park, Mountain City, GA); Maria Brana (Cleveland, GA); Kyle Burrell; Cloud 9 Salon (Clayton, GA); Greg Corbett; Michele and Broderick Crawford (Crawford Art Gallery, Clayton, GA); Peter Croes; Dairy Queen (Clayton, GA); Jeff and Karen Durniak; Bill Egeland; Justin English; Fish Tales Outfitters & Guide Service (Franklin, NC, Ernie King); The FoxFire Boys (Wayne Gipson, Mike Hamilton, Steve McCall, Tom Nixon, Dean English, Filmer Kilby), Gene Hansard;

*Continued next page*

Carla Gignilliat Art (Chamblee, GA); Mike Fuller; Hatch Camp & Art Farm (Scott Low, Clayton, GA); Hillside Orchard Farms (Tiger, GA); The Home Depot (Clayton, GA); Tammy and Pat Hopton; Steve Hudson; Ken Kellerman; Ray King; Holly and Derek Maddox; Mane Design (Dillard, GA); Manrique's Mexican Restaurant (Clayton, GA); Stephanie Marchant; Mark of the Potter Pottery Store (Clarkeville, GA); Patricia May; Marcia Miller; Moonrise Distillery (Clayton, GA); Mountain Grill (Clayton, GA); Nanette and Rick O'Hara; O'Reilly Auto Parts (Clayton, GA); Outdoor 76 (Clayton, GA); Susan and Frank Patton; Wayne Prosser; Rabun Chapter of TU; Rabun County Golf Club (Clayton, GA); Reeves Building Supply, Corey Page - (Clayton, GA); Reeves Outdoors, Jeff Houston and Lewis Reeves - (Clayton, GA); Terry Rivers, The Rusty Bike Café (Clayton, GA); Salon 259 (Clayton, GA); Savannah River Chapter TU - Jimmy Miller; Seehorn Family Farms, Terry Seehorn (Rabun Gap, GA); Sherry Kennedy (Sherrie's Designs); Mike Sobaski; Shady Creek Expeditions (Trey McFalls, Clayton, GA); Smithgall Woods State Park (Steven Emery, GM); Sunday Diner (Clayton, GA); Ron Thomas, Foothills TU; Timpson Creek Gallery (Clayton, GA); Frank Tolbert; Rodney Tumlin; The Russ Tyre Estate; Unicoi Outfitters (Jake Darling and Jimmy Harris, Helen, GA); Brian Weeks; Judy Williams; Tom West; Kent Wilson and Jack Wintle.

Thank you, Donors! We appreciate your support of Rabun TU!

All donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501(c)3 non-profit) are tax deductible.

Tight Lines, everybody!

Ray King, Rabun Rendezvous Chair



***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.

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

## A Message from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

We are pleased to announce the promotion of John Lee Thomson to Region 2 Fisheries Management Supervisor.

John Lee graduated from Clemson University in 1999 and worked as a Fisheries Biologist for a private environmental company in south Florida. In 2006, John Lee decided to return to the real south and joined WRD as a Fisheries Technician 2 at Lake Burton Fish Hatchery. He learned all aspects of trout culture and our trout program and in 2012 he was promoted to Hatchery Manager and statewide Trout Stocking Coordinator. This position required him to work with multiple state and federal agencies to benefit all Georgia trout anglers. He oversaw a successful renovation of the Lake Burton Hatchery and has continued to work on trout program improvements and efficiencies throughout his career. More recently he was promoted to Biologist 3 and served as Assistant Region Supervisor in addition to his trout program responsibilities. He is a DNR Leadership Academy graduate and is well prepared for his new role.

Please join me in congratulating John Lee on this promotion.

Scott Robinson

Chief, Fisheries Management

GA Department of Natural Resources



### **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)

**FOOTHILLS CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED**  
**JOIN US AT OUR FUNDRAISER**

**"HOOT ON THE HOOCH 2025"**



**SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025. DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM**  
**HELEDORF INN --33 MUNICH STRASSE--HELEN, GA--(706) 878-2271**  
**BBQ --BLUEGRASS--BOILED PEANUTS (THE 3 B'S OF THE SOUTH)**  
**AUCTIONS & RAFFLES (SILENT AUCTION & BUCKETS)**  
**FISHING ON THE HOOCH**  
**DREAM TRIP DRAWING**  
**\$40 ADMISSION (\$20 FOR AGE 21 AND UNDER)**  
**GOOD FRIENDS--GREAT TIME--HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE**

**WE GIVE A "HOOT"**  
**TAKE A KID FISHING**



**SUMTER**  
National Forest

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE  
ANNUAL CHATTOOGA RIVER**

# **SPRING SWEEP**

All are welcome to join the Andrew Pickens  
Ranger District on **April 5th** for a  
**trash pick-up event around the  
Chattooga River, Chauga River, and  
Other locations around the district.**

## **WANT TO JOIN?**

Meet at the *Hwy 76 Chattooga River  
Access Parking Lot at 9 am!*

You will be assigned a trash pick-up  
location and given trash bags. Please  
bring gloves, water, sun protection,  
and a snack for the day. Everyone will  
meet back at Hwy 76 River Access  
Parking Lot at 2 pm.

The USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.







# FLY-FISHING SEMINAR

[www.rabuntu.org](http://www.rabuntu.org)

- Ever wanted to try your hand at fly-fishing for trout but never learned the in's and out's of it?
- Ever wonder why some people seem to get so "hooked" on it?

Now's your chance! The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited is planning a half-day fly-fishing seminar for adults (male and female 16 years and older). The seminar will cover equipment, casting, knots and entomology (the bugs we imitate for fish to eat).

Instructors include local experts for a hands-on learning experience that will be helpful and fun.

**WHAT: Beginning Fly-Fishing Seminar "Rabunite 101"**

**WHEN: Saturday - April 12, 2025 8:30 am until 1:00 pm**

**WHERE: The Rabun County Recreation Center Upper Gym.  
On highway 441 near Rabun County Middle & High School complex.**

**HOW MUCH? Cost is only \$25**

**WANT TO SIGN UP??? FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!  
The session is limited to 28 participants.**

**Send the form below along with your check made payable to:**

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Attn: Charlie Breithaupt  
194 Kitchens Lane  
Clayton, GA 30525 [knc615@windstream.net](mailto:knc615@windstream.net) (706) 782-6954

*You will receive notification when you have been registered.*

Please Print **(NEATLY!)** Yes, I want to attend the fly-fishing seminar!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Rabun Chapter 2025 Spring Campout

**When:** Monday, April 28 through Sunday, May 4.

**Where:** [Oconee State Park](#), Mountain Rest, SC

**Who:** All Chapter members and guests are invited! Bring a friend!

**Details:** The Chapter will use Site #93 in the Wooded Loop as the “gathering spot”. Meals will be taken there along with story telling around the campfire at night.

Campers should contact the [Park](#) and make their own campsite reservations. There are a variety of sites available, including furnished cabins, tent only sites, and campsites with full hookups.

We will eat breakfast and supper together at Site #93. Lunch is on your own. We need volunteers to cook suppers and breakfasts (except Friday supper).

If you volunteer to cook a meal then all other meals are free of charge to you. If you do not cook a meal, then you pay the cook \$5.00 for each meal that you eat. What a deal! The Chapter will provide stoves, paper plates, silverware, cups. Even if you don't camp, come by to eat a meal or sit around the campfire!

Friday night will be a communal steak and baked potato supper. Everyone bring your own steak and potato. The Chapter will have the grill and hot charcoal ready for you to grill your own steak!

We need an accurate head count of who will be at the campout and what meals you will eat. This is needed for the cooks to adequately purchase and prepare the meals.

For other activities during the campout you may explore the Park, hike to nearby scenic waterfalls, photograph spring wildflowers, visit nearby Cashiers, NC, or fish the many streams in the Tri-State area. Remember to carry the appropriate State fishing license!

To sign up to cook a meal or to say you are coming, contact the Campout Coordinator [Terry Rivers](#).



Far from the luxuries of home, camping forces a slower, more thoughtful approach to living. Mornings are savored. Coffee is sipped rather than drained. Making meals is less a chore and more an event. An evening stroll replaces the nightly TV hypnosis. In short, for a few fleeting days, we are briefly, blissfully, beautifully human again.

*Mark Kenyon, [The MeatEater Crew](#)*

## 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 xx 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

### Camping and Fishing Trip to Great Smoky Mountains National Park Brian Weeks, Feb 16

This past week, my bride and little eight year old girl and I ventured into the Great Smoky Mountain National Park for a half a week of tent camping. When we arrived Thursday evening at about 6:30pm, it was rapidly getting dark. On our way to the campsite, we passed a herd of about 40 elk. Not a bad way to begin the trip. Once at the campsite, we quickly set up the tent amidst snow flurries and an air temp of 17F.

The first night was the coldest we've ever camped in with a low of 8F. With more than one sleeping pad and sleeping bag per person, along with supplemental blankets, believe it or not, we were able to stay warm. The second night it "only" got down to 20F. Mere child's play by comparison!

Even though each night and day was cold, the air temps were trending warmer each day. In my experience, even if a particular day is cold, if it's part of a warming trend, trout tend to be more active. So I figured I'd wait until the later in the trip to fish to take advantage of that warming trend. That Saturday early afternoon, when I hit the water, both the air and water temps were 42F. I wasn't expecting much.

I'm almost exclusively catch and release in the park. But going into this trip, I planned to keep some for us to eat. Before I left the campsite to go fish, my little girl asked again if I was going to keep some for us to eat that night. She really wanted us to smoke a bigger one over the fire. The pressure was on, I had to deliver! And to my pleasant surprise, the fish were active.

They all came from a #14 hares ear variation at the bottom of deeper water. In warmer water, I'll grid the stream off and work just about every bit of it. But on colder days, I'll mainly target deeper water as, down at the bottom, that's generally where the warmer water is too.

The takes were subtle (no aggressive hits), but the fights were active. One even went airborne trying to get free.

By God's providence, that night we were able to smoke one over the fire, while bread baked in the Dutch oven. And I'm happy to say, my little girl thoroughly enjoyed her trout.



## Fishing Reports

### Mataura New Zealand, Wild Brown Trout

Tom West, Feb 25



## Conservation Projects Report

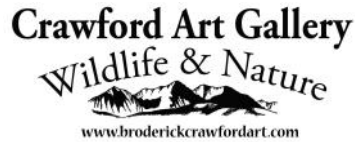
### Hale Ridge Bog and Stream Restoration Project

Tammy Hopton, Feb 25

The Rabun Chapter had the opportunity to help with adding the finishing touches to the Hale Ridge Bog and Stream Restoration Project. Four Rabunites (myself, Jeff Durniak, Jack Wintle and one adopted Rabunite, Edwin Pruitt) along with Kristen Love, National TU Southeast Coordinator, assisted the Forest Service by applying pine straw and straw waddles on areas needing erosion control and installing cover logs on Metcalf Creek. Way to go, Rabunites!



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

## March Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies .</u>
Early 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 (Important)	All month	Late am to Mid pm	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis 18 Hairs Ear Nymph
Cream Caddis (Important)	Late month	Mid day to Late pm	12-14 Cream Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Quill Gordon (Important)	Late month	Late am to Mid pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph
Red Quill aka Hendrickson	Mid-Late month	Mid day to Late pm	14-16 Red Quill or Hendrickson 14-16 Pheasant Tail Nymph
March Brown (Very Important)	Mid-Late month	L am to Mid pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 Dark Hares Ear or Pheasant Tail Nymph
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

## Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

### March Brown

**HOOK:** # 12-16 Dry Fly Hook

**TAIL:** Brown Hackle Fibers

**BODY:** Brown Goose Biots

**THORAX:** Brown Rabbit Dubbing

**PARACHUTE:** Antron or Calf Tail

**HACKLE:** Brown



**Spring is approaching fast! Watch for March Brown mayflies to hatch sporadically during warm, sunny days. Remember: you have to be there to see it!**

***See you on The River! Terry***



## Prez Notes

Spring is on it way! Don't you just love it?? We are heading into the 2025/26 Fiscal Year starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board has been busy making plans for the new year. If you have some ideas, please share them with us.

On Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting the Georgia Council Meeting at the NE GA Food Bank. This is a good opportunity to see how the Georgia Council works. So if you get a chance, plan to be there by 9am.

We have a busy spring schedule and plenty of opportunities to pitch in. You can help mentor new fly fishing friends, clean up the Chattooga River or the Reed Creek watershed or improve trout habitat in Sarah's Creek! Our spring schedule should have plenty of chance to join.

Now it is the time to get your **Dream Trip Tickets!!** Remember you only have until **March 16<sup>th</sup>**! Hope you can come and join us for Hoot on the Hooch in Helen on March 22... we will learn who the lucky winner will be that night!

Steve Perry will be rotating off of the board and stepping down from Conservation Chair this month... I appreciate all of his work and guidance and will miss him. He will still be an active part of our group. If you don't know, he has held many different positions in the past, including president. Steve is a wealth of knowledge.

Jeff Durniak has agreed to be Chair of our Conservation team and Ken Kellerman will continue as Co-Chair. If you are interested in helping with this team please let Jeff or Ken know. I am sure they will be happy to put you to work!

We will have our election for 2025, at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, so be sure to be there to have your say. Check the ballot on page \_\_\_\_ of Tight lines.

We continue to change up our meeting locations. We still have a few other places to try. So be sure to keep up where we will be next. If you have a suggestion, let us know.

The March meeting will be at the NE GA Food Bank. Our speaker will be Towdy Tipton the Chattooga River Forest District Ranger. This is a great opportunity to meet her. We have been partnering with our USFS partners in protecting our fisheries. We anticipate learning more about what is happening in our area and how we can further our partnership with the Forest Service. Hope to see you all there!

*Prez Tammy*

