



TIGHT LINES

April 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](#)

April, 2025 Rabun Chapter Meeting

“Fishing Buddy Day”

Saturday, April 12
Meet at the Rabun County Recreation Center at 1:00 pm

April is a prime time for fishing and usually too nice to be stuck indoors, so...

Rabun TU's April meeting will be a Fishing Buddy Day! Chapter members interested in wetting a line should show up at the Rabun County Recreation Center at 1PM. We will wrap up our Rabunite 101 class for registered guests at that time and then go fishing.

Bring your own equipment and snacks and buddy up. Find a new fishing friend among our chapter members, decide on your destination, and go hit some local trout waters for the afternoon. Hopefully our experienced chapter members will lend a hand to our up-and-coming rookies. Whether you're a bait, lure, or fly angler, there's some good local water waiting for you.

Come one, come all and buddy up with some new fishing friends!



Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- **Saturday, April 5. Spring Sweep.** Annual river cleanup on the Chattooga River. Sponsored by the Andrew Pickens Ranger District, Forest Service. See page 4 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](#) or see page 3 for more information.
- **Saturday, April 12. Fishing Buddy Day.** Meet at the Rabun County Recreation Center at 1:00 pm. Folks will “buddy-up” and leave to fish their favorite spots in the area. See page 1 for more information. *This will be our April Chapter meeting.*
- **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.
- **Wednesday, April 22. Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** 7:00 pm at Food Bank of NE GA. Anyone can attend. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, April 26. Blue Ridge Trout & Outdoor Adventures Festival.** 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](#) or see page 5 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 6 for more information.
- **Saturday, May 3. Sarahs Creek Stream Conservation Project.** Meet at first campground, on the left just before the crossing of FS Road 156 and Sarahs Creek, at 9:00 am. Bring gloves, water, and a snack. Contact [Pat Hopton](#) or see page 6 for more information.
- **Tuesday, May 20. Hot Dog Cook-Out and Fishing.** Meet at the parking area on GA side of the Burrells Ford Bridge at 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm. Bring a chair and a side dish. Please RSVP to [Charlie or Kathy Breithaupt](#) by May 16. Trout fishing before and after dinner. *This will be our May Chapter meeting.*
- **Sunday, June 1 - Friday, June 6. Georgia Trout Camp.** Tallulah Falls School, Tallulah Falls, GA. Sponsored by the GA Council Trout Unlimited. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, June 7. Tallulah River Kids Fishing Event.** Meet at Tallulah River Campground. 9:00 am - 12:00pm. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) to volunteer to help.



FLY-FISHING SEMINAR

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 (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 _____



SUMTER
National Forest

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE
ANNUAL CHATTOOGA RIVER

SPRING SWEEP

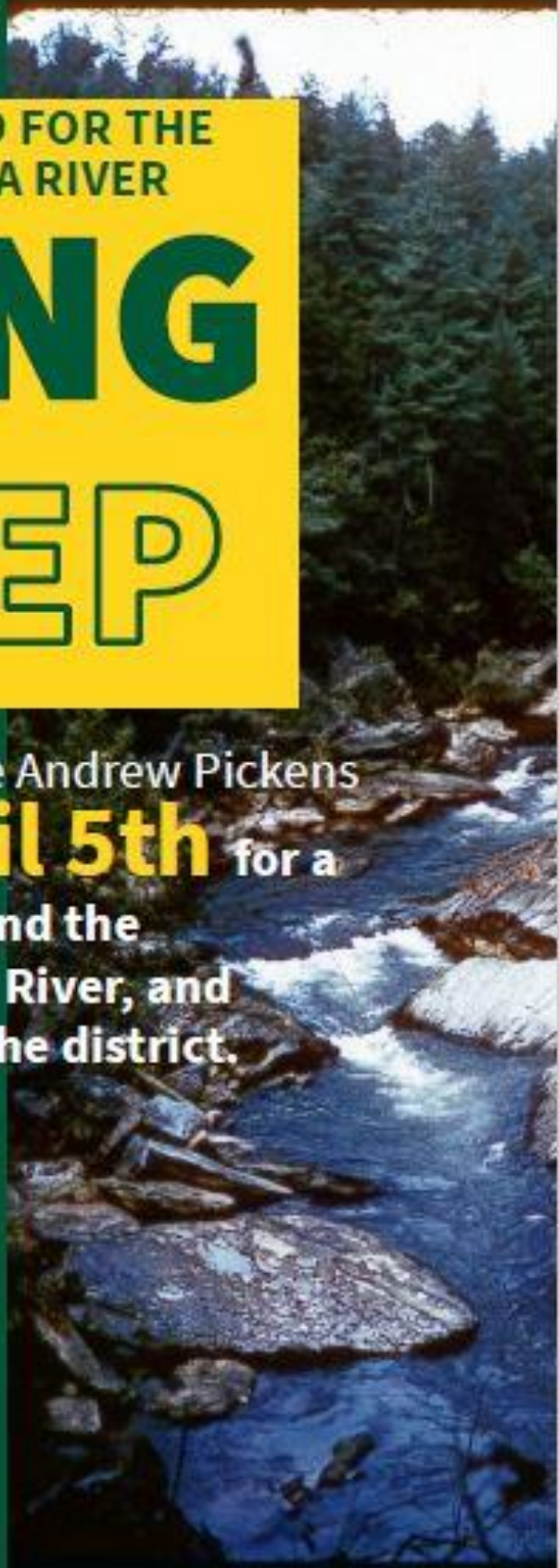
All are welcome to join the Andrew Pickens
Ranger District on **April 5th** for a
trash pick-up event around the
Chattooga River, Chauga River, and
Other locations around the district.

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.



Celebrate Trout Fishing in the Trout Capital of Georgia ...



8th Annual

Blue Ridge Trout & Outdoor Adventures Festival

10 am to 6 pm, April 26, 2025

Downtown City Park, Blue Ridge, Georgia



(01-30-25)



On April 26, 2025, 10 am to 6 pm, the 8th annual Blue Ridge Trout & Outdoor Adventures Festival returns to Blue Ridge, Georgia, and Fannin County – the *Official Trout Capital of Georgia*.

Fishermen, river sports enthusiasts and outdoor recreation fans and their families gather at Blue Ridge's downtown city park for recreational services, fun, food, activities, entertainment and shopping, while increasing the public's knowledge of trout and cold-water conservation associated with Trout Unlimited. Net proceeds of Trout Fest '25 support cold-water conservation, education, recreation and community awareness and outreach programs funded (in part) by the all-volunteer [Blue Ridge Mountain Trout Unlimited #696](#).

Contact us:
Bob Borgwat
 Event coordinator
 770-827-6657
bborgwat@gmail.com
BlueRidgeTroutFest.com

Associated
 Event
 Partner

MAKE IT AN ABOUT-TROUT WEEKEND!



NEW! CATCH IT! ... ON FILM – Blue Ridge Mountain Trout Unlimited and Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Association presents a selection of short films focused on local, cold-water environments – the fish, the fishing, the water and its secrets – of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Ticketed guests mingle from 5 to 7 pm, April 25, in the gallery while enjoying food, beverages, raffles and the camaraderie of the trout-fishing community, raising funds and building greater awareness for local cold-water resources. More info at BlueRidgeTroutFest.com.

THEN ... TROUT FEST '25!

CAST-PADDLE-HIKE-CAMP-GOLF-RIDE-ART-LIVE MUSIC-CRAFT BEER-FOOD
 More than 4,000 visitors ... and the selection of exhibitors keeps growing!



More than 100 retail vendors present fishing gear/accessories, wildlife art/jewelry, outfitter apparel/gear, outdoor cooking, guided fishing services, and much more!

Trout Fest Activity Zone opens up a world of outdoor fun ... fly-casting, mountain biking, golf games, trout pond, crosscutting, gem mining and more!



Trout Fest Program Tents ... Professionals reveal local trout fishing, mountain biking, hiking, paddling and more in Fannin County – the *Trout Capital of Georgia*.

Trout Fest Food Court features new and returning vendors, and our Beer/Wine Garden will feature brews from [Grumpy Old Men Brewing Company](#).



TROUT FEST '25 TAGGED-TROUT FISHING DERBY

March 28-April 26
 Cash, awards
 & sponsored prizes.

More information
BlueRidgeTroutFest.com



Scan image
 to learn more

... TROUT FEST '25 PRESENTS IN CONCERT!

featuring

Kurt Thomas Band



with **Topper**



3-6pm

... AND FINISH THE FUN WITH A RUN!



THE TROUT TROT 5K ... Enjoy a picturesque course that will take you 3.1 miles through 2 states. This scenic route winds through the charming downtowns of McCaysville, GA and Copperhill, TN.

WHEN: Saturday, April 26 @ 6:30 PM

WHAT: 3.1 Miles, all paved (view more at MapMyRun)

MORE INFO: TROUTTROT5K.COM

TROUT FEST '25
 Presenting partners

[troncalli](#) [Georgia's Blue Ridge](#) [CRUMPY OLD MEN BREWING](#) [BRLA](#)

[SUBARU](#) [FANNIN COUNTY CHAMBER & CVR](#)

The Ever-Best Festival Sponsorship Team

[EXECUTIVE PARKING](#) [OLD TOCOCOA FARM](#) [HOLSTON GASES](#) [BIKES](#)

[SAND POINT FAMILY VINEYARDS](#) [Cartecay Bicycles](#) [Georgia Grow](#)

[Southern Outdoors](#) [MERCE OROCHARD](#) [Blue Ridge](#) [KOA](#)

[Tococa Ridge Outfitters](#) [SquarF+Dance](#) [Fly Fish Blue Ridge](#) [Leafguard](#)

[Tococa Outdoors](#) [Barlowe's GA](#) [Leaf Filter](#) [Circuit World](#)

[Capital City Home Loans](#)

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](#).



Stream Conservation Project on Saturday, May 3

In conjunction with our Annual Spring Campout, we have a stream conservation project planned for Saturday, May 3 at Sarahs Creek. You don't have to be a camper to participate in the project! Meet at the first area of [Sarahs Creek Campground](#), on the left just before the FS Road 156 crosses Sarahs Creek. We will begin work at 9:00 am and should be finished by noon. Bring gloves, clothes to wade in, water, and snacks.



District Ranger Towdy Tipton Speaks to our Chapter

On Tuesday, March 18 the guest speaker at our monthly Chapter meeting was Towdy Tipton, the (relatively) new District Ranger for the Chattooga River Ranger District. Although new as a District Ranger here, she has worked for the US Forest Service for 13 years most recently as the Recreation Program Manager on the Blue Ridge Ranger District.

Towdy spoke to our Chapter about her accomplishments since she arrived and her goals for future work to be done. The Chapter expressed our interest in the District performing effective and timely road maintenance, such as the Burrells Ford Road; continuing dispersed camping opportunities, such as at Double Bit and Persimmon Gap; and returning access to a popular fishing area by repairing and reopening the Wildcat Creek Road.

Chapter Prez Tammy Hopton presented a Michele Crawford photograph to Towdy as a gift from the Chapter.



Rabunites Attend the Hoot on the Hooch

On Saturday, March 22 a contingent of Rabunites went to Helen, GA to attend the “Hoot on the Hooch”, the annual fundraiser for the Chattooga Chapter. We dined on barbeque, listened to bluegrass music, and bid on a multitude of silent auction items. Our Prez Tammy Hopton, on behalf of the Rabun Chapter, donated a Broderick Crawford trout blanket to be used in their silent auction. It was a great night and a good time was had by all!

Congratulations to the Dream Trip Winners!

During the Hoot on the Hooch, the winners of the Dream Trip prizes were announced. Congratulations to Ken Stallings for winning the grand prize, a 5 day all expense paid guided fishing trip in Idaho donated by John and Laine McGarity! But wait! Our own Chapter Prez, Tammy Hopton, won the #1 runner-up prize: a TFO-BVK 9 foot, 6 weight fly rod, donated by the Atlanta Fly Fishing School.

For a complete list of all the prize winners, [CLICK HERE](#).

Thank you to everyone who bought Dream Trip tickets! Your support of the Georgia Council makes Trout Camp possible.



Rabun Chapter Selects our Candidate for the 2025 Trout Camp

The Rabun Chapter Board of Directors announces it's selection of the young person the Chapter will sponsor to attend the 2025 Georgia Trout Camp: Wyatt English. Wyatt is 14 years old, is an avid hunter and fisherman, and is the son of Rabun Chapter members Monty and Kim English from Jefferson, GA.

Congratulations, Wyatt!



Thank You, Nannete!

Nannete O'Hara has faithfully served as the Chapter Social Media Coordinator for the past several years. In this role she kept our FaceBook and Instagram pages updated with current news, announcements, and other information useful to both our Chapter members and visitors. Her work has been a huge help in us "getting the word out", particularly to the younger, more internet-savvy folks

For personal reasons, Nannete is stepping down as Social media Coordinator. She assures us that she will still be available to assist when needed and that both her and her husband, Rick, will continue to be active and supportive members of our Chapter.



Rabun Chapter Selects New a Leader

The Rabun Chapter Board of Directors nominated a new member to the Board of Directors. Jack Wintle was nominated to replace outgoing Board member Steve Perry. The nomination was presented to the Chapter members at the March Chapter meeting for a vote and Jack was unanimously voted in.

We thank Steve for his service and welcome Jack to his new position. Thank you guys for stepping up!

There are many other opportunities to serve your Chapter. If you are interested in helping out, contact [Prez Tammy](#).

"Ours is the grandest sport. It is an intriguing battle of wits between an angler and a trout; and in addition to appreciating the tradition and grace of the game, we play it in the magnificent out-of-doors."

Ernest G. Schwiebert, Jr

Fishing Reports

GA Tech 5 Rivers: Camping and Fishing on the Tallulah River

Submitted by Avril Adams

This past weekend, the Georgia Tech 5 Rivers Club held our semesterly camping trip. We went to the Tallulah River for the first time as a club. We brought 15 members (including 2 first timers!) and while not everyone caught fish, everyone reported that they “enjoyed the vibes.”

Those who arrived earliest (Thursday night and Friday morning) tore ‘em up before the weekend crowds made it up there. Best success came with using egg patterns, Walt’s Worms, and junk flies for catching the stockers and using small Pheasant Tails and Chubby Chernobyl’s for the wild trout.

While it did rain on us a fair amount, we didn’t mind because we knew the weather was helping with the wildfire situation further north.

While the fishing is always good, our members report that they had the most fun :hiking to North Carolina”, Hunting down bluelines”, “sharing secrets” (whatever that means), and “spending time with friends”. A few of us were lucky to “run into” a couple of Rabunites y’all might be familiar with who gifted us a prized bottle of their sourwood honey.

We ended our last evening as we always do, with our traditional campfire karaoke that last late into the night, only this time with no campfire, with the great addition of our club’s two guitarists.

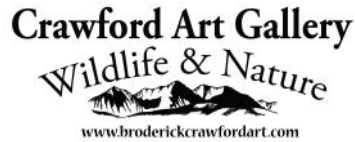
Huge thanks to all the Rabunites, Forest Service and DNR folks, and other TU mentors who helped us pick the location, deal with the new site reservation system, and watched out for wildfires!



April Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
Quill Gordon Mayfly	Early month	Late am to Mid pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12-14 Quill Gordon Nymph
Blue Quill Mayfly	Early month	Late am to Mid pm	16-18 BWO, Blue Quill, or Blue Dun 16-18 Prince or Pheasant Tail
Small Dun Caddis (Important)	All month	Late am to Mid pm	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis 18 Hairs Ear Nymph
Cream Caddis (Very important)	All month	Mid day to Late pm	12-14 Cream Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Hendrickson Mayfly	All month	Late am to mid pm	12-14 Hendrickson or Adams Parachute 12-14 Pheasant Tail Nymph
March Brown (Important)	All month	L am to Mid pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 Dark Hares Ear or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Yellow Sally Stonefly	Late month	Early to late am	14-16 Yellow Stimulator or Yellow Elk Hair Caddis 14-16 Yellow Stonefly Nymph
Light Cahill Mayfly (Important)	Late month	Early to late pm	12-14 Light Cahill 12-14 Light Cahill Nymph
Speckled Gray Caddis	Late month	Mid to late pm	12-14 Dark Elk Hair Caddis or Deer Hair Caddis 12-14 Dun or Yellow/Brown Caddis Pupa
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,

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](#)

[Mike Anderson](#)

[Rick O'Hara](#)

[Ken Kellerman](#)

[Jack Wintle](#)

Chapter President thru 03/26

Chapter Vice President thru 03/26

Treasurer

Secretary

Past President thru 03/26

Fundraising Chair

Director thru 03/26

Director thru 03/27

Director thru 03/28

Director thru 03/29

Non-Voting Leaders

[Jerry McFalls](#)

[Pat Hopton](#)

[Pat Hopton](#)

Scouts Liaison

Tight Lines Editor

Memorials

Be the Heron

Heron are expert fishers. We can learn a lot from herons.

- Study the water carefully;
- Be stealthy;
- Wade very slowly;
- Make short, accurate casts;
- Make short, quick hooksets;
- Catch a bunch of trout right in front of you!



[CLICK HERE](#) for more secrets from the Rabunites!

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

Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

Parachute Adams

HOOK: # 12-18 Dry Fly Hook

TAIL: Brown Hackle Fibers

BODY: Grey Dubbing

PARACHUTE: Antron or Calf Tail

HACKLE: Grizzly / Brown Mix



A great all-around fly to use during the Spring, it imitates many varieties of mayflies. Try attaching a small nymph as a dropper.

See you on The River! Terry

Prez Notes

It's good to have rain here at the start of April. Our creeks and rivers need some water as well as our forests.

We always are busy in the Spring, fishing, gardening, etc. To me it's the best time of year in North Georgia! I love this weather that has cool nights and warm days.

Pat and I already have our maps out and have started planning our annual trip west of Hiawasee. Now that is exciting! I hear the snow pack has been close to normal in the areas that we are considering. That is a good sign for our trip! Have you started thinking of a western trip yet? Summer will be here before you know it.

But in the meantime, our chapter has plenty of fun events coming up to keep us all busy. Here's some upcoming ideas to get you involved with your Chapter: volunteer to help with Rabunite 101 or go fishing with old and new friends after 101! And don't forget our Annual Spring Campout is coming up too. Why don't you come and camp? Or just come over to sit around the fire for an evening. Of course, April and May are THE BEST months of the year for fly fishing for trout in the Southern Appalachians.

Trout camp will start on June 1st. If you are interested in helping teach kids to fish, cast or tie flies, check the Georgia Council website and sign up to volunteer.

We also have several conservation events in the works so keep looking for these opportunities to help restore and protect our streams!

Nan O'Hara is stepping down from leading the Rabun Chapter Facebook postings. She spent a lot of hours keeping the public up to date on all our events and happenings. We appreciate all her creative work and effort to help promote our chapter. Please send her a note or give her a big 'Thank You' when you see her!

I hope you all enjoy our lovely spring. Remember to send pictures and reports of your fishing adventures!

Prez Tammy