



# TIGHT LINES

## June 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

### June, 2025 Rabun Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, June 17

Meeting will be held at [Currahee Brewery](#), 93 West Savannah Street, Clayton, GA.

Fellowship starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Program will be *Fisheries Management Activities at Great Smoky Mountains National Park*

Presented by *Matt Kulp, Supervisory Fisheries Biologist*

Any Smokies fishing fans out there? Please join us for a special treat on Tuesday, June 17. Rabun TU's monthly meeting features the return of our friend, Great Smoky Mountains National Park's chief fisheries biologist Matt Kulp. Matt will update us on his park fisheries programs.

See y'all there, fellow Rabunites and friends. You never know, Matt might just share a few secrets on pursuing Smokies trout. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the aquatic critters in our national park.



[CLICK HERE](#) for more info on Matt or see page 2.

## Introduction to Matt Kulp

Matt Kulp holds a B.S. in biology from Pennsylvania State University (1992) and a M.S. in biology (fisheries) from Tennessee Technological University (1994). He worked at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit at Penn State in 1993-1994 as a fisheries technician. Matt began his career with Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) in May 1994 as a fishery technician, in May 1995 became a fishery biologist and in 2014 became the Supervisory Fishery Biologist at the Park. His fisheries management objectives focus on fish population monitoring, Brook Trout genetics, native fish restoration, threatened and endangered fish reintroduction and monitoring, and long-term water quality monitoring/modelling. He has led or assisted with native fish restoration projects in 5 national parks, 3 National Forests and one USFWS wildlife refuge restoring Bull Trout, Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, southern Brook Trout, Barren's Topminnow, and native amphibians. In GRSM, he assisted or led projects to restore Brook Trout to 19 streams totaling 36.5 miles of habitat. Matt authored or coauthored over 35 peer reviewed publications covering fisheries management, Brook Trout genetics, water quality, biotic effects of acidification and native fish restoration. Matt was awarded the EPA STAR award for coauthoring "*Standard Operating Practices for the Use of Fintrol® (Antimycin A) for Restoration of Native Fish Populations*". When not working he enjoys turkey hunting, fishing, woodworking and spending time with his wife Mimi. They reside in Wears Valley, Tennessee.

### Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- Saturday, June 14. **Tallulah River Kids Fishing Event.** Tallulah River Campground. 9:00 am—12:00 pm. Sponsored by the US Forest Service, with Rabun and Savannah River Chapters assisting. For more information contact [Ken Kellerman](#) or see page 3.
- Tuesday, June 17. **Monthly Chapter Meeting.** Currahee Brewing. Social starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. See page 1 for more information.
- Tuesday, June 24. **Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** Northeast Georgia Food Bank. Starts at 7:00 pm. Anyone can attend. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- Tuesday, July 15. **Annual Rabun Chapter Family Picnic.** Kelly's Water Park. Rabun Gap GA.
- **No Chapter activities in the month of August.**
- **Annual Chattooga River Electroshock Sampling.** Date and location to be announced soon!
- Monday, November 10 - Sunday, November 16. **Annual Rabun Chapter Fall 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](#) for more information.
- **Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner.** Date and location to be announced soon!
- **39th Annual Rabun Rendezvous.** Date and location to be announced soon!





**CHATTOOGA RIVER  
RANGER DISTRICT**

**Kids  
Fishing Rodeo**

June 14, 2025  
9 am - 12 pm

**TALLULAH RIVER CAMPGROUND**  
800 Tallulah River Road  
Clayton, GA 30525

*Join us for:*  
Lunch                      Fishing  
Goodie Bags              Prizes

**REGISTER AT THE EVENT**

For more information call:  
706-745-6221



## Back Issues of Tightlines are Now Posted on the Chapter Website

The Rabun Chapter Trout Unlimited has a long and colorful history. A brief summary of how the Chapter came to be may be found by [CLICKING HERE](#).

But even better, a nearly complete history of old issues of Tightlines, the monthly newsletter of the Rabun Chapter, has been scanned and digital copies put onto the Chapter website. [CLICK HERE](#) to see them. You will learn a lot about the early days of the Chapter.

These old issues begin with July, 1986 and continue to the present date. There is a block of missing newsletters from June, 2003 to February, 2005. If you have any of those issues please let [Pat Hopton](#) know.

Thank you to the Adams family for letting us scan their old issues of Tightlines!

## Report from Trout Camp 2025



Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Rabun Chapter's first pick to sponsor for Trout Camp, Wyatt English, had to cancel. In addition, another chapter had no applicants and donated their spot to the Rabun Chapter. So the Rabun Chapter was able pick two new campers, Mason Beck and Lee Watkins, to sponsor for the 2025 Trout Camp!

In the lefthand picture above, Trout Camp Volunteer and Chapter Prez Tammy Hopton (center) is pictured with Mason Beck (left) . Mason is 13 years old and lives in Clayton with his mother, Carrie Beck. Also pictured above is Lee Watkins (right). Lee is 14 years old and lives in Clayton with his mother, Erica Hayes. This picture was taken on Smith Creek where the campers had gone fishing with camp volunteers.

In the center picture above, Trout Camp Volunteer and Chapter Member Charlie Breithaupt (center) presents the Julie Stalnaker Award to both Mason and Lee. The Julie Stalnaker Award is given to a camper that exhibits the qualities of being positive, good-natured, helpful, and intelligent. It was a tie this year between Mason and Lee so it was decided to give the award to each of them! This was the first time that award was given to two individuals. This, and the next, picture was taken during the awards and graduation ceremony.

In the righthand picture above Rodney Tumlin, GA Council President and Trout Camp Director (center) presents a Certificate of Appreciation and gifts to Chapter Member Calder Adams (right). Calder was a Trout Camper in 2023 and came back this year as a Youth Mentor. Calder stayed all week with the campers and was a big help in mentoring the youth. Trout Camp Volunteer and Chapter Member Kathy Breithaupt (left) assisted with the ceremony.

Other Rabun Chapter members that volunteered at the 2025 Trout Camp include Terry Rivers, Brooks Adams, and Frank Tolbert.

Thank you to everyone who had a part in the 2025 Trout Camp! It was a great time!



## A Review of the Chapter Annual Report to National TU

### Tammy Hopton, Chapter Prez

Each year every TU Chapter must give an annual report to National TU stating their accomplishments for the fiscal year ending April 31. This yearly report helps us see where our money and time is spent. Let me tell you, it can be a challenge to pull all the numbers together to get it close to accurate. We couldn't do it without Ray King!

Here is a summary of some of our accomplishments with a comparison to last year's numbers:

**Conservation Events:** 15 events for this year vs 3 the prior year. This year includes the monthly Reed Creek cleanups, the Hale Ridge project, and the Reed Creek stream improvement project.

**Conservation Hours:** 73 hours this year vs 25 hours for the prior year (see above) .

College related events: 3 this year and none last year These included the Chattooga River cleanup with GA Tech 5 Rivers Club, the UGA 5 River ladies campout and fishing event, and the Reed Creek Stream improvement project with the UGA recreation class.

**Advocacy Hours:** 68 Hours this year vs 4 hours last year. This included the Leadership Georgia visit to Rabun County in September.

Of course, this is just a brief overview. We also had campouts, helped with electroshocking on the Chattooga River, monitored water temperature of the Chattooga River, and helped with Tallulah River Kids Fishing Rodeo. We also supported many other organizations financially, such as Casting for Recovery, Project Healing Water and the Georgia Wildlife Federation.

So let's give a big "thank you!" to our chapter leaders of these events. I wanted to share this year's accomplishments with you so you can see what a fun, active Chapter you belong to. You can be proud of the Rabun Chapter TU!



## Some Pictures from Spring, 2025 Fishing



## Let's Go Fishing! Connect with Others Through GroupMe

Rabunites, let's go fishing! There is an interactive app called GroupMe that will make coordination much easier. And any member can invite others thru this means. These are not a guided trips; it's a just a group of TU'ers going fishing and having fun.

Install the "GroupMe" app on your cell phone and then join the "Rabun TU Fishing Fun" group. Links are provided below to make it easier.

1) Click the link to install the GroupMe app:

App Store link: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/groupme/id392796698> (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/groupme/id392796698>)

Google Play (Android): <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.groupme.android> (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.groupme.android>)

2) Click the link to join the group: "Rabun TU Fishing Fun" : [https://groupme.com/join\\_group/99574781/5IUehWfg](https://groupme.com/join_group/99574781/5IUehWfg) ([https://groupme.com/join\\_group/99574781/5IUehWfg](https://groupme.com/join_group/99574781/5IUehWfg))

## Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

### Foam Beetle

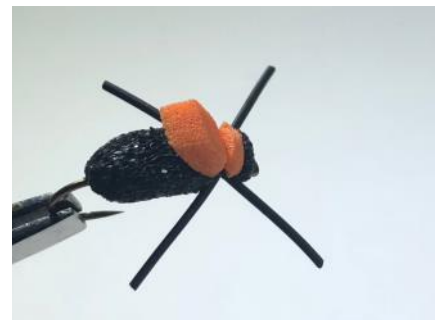
**HOOK:** Dry Fly Hook #12-16

**BODY:** Peacock Herl

**BACK:** Foam Rubber

**POST:** Orange Foam

**LEGS:** Medium Rubber Leg Material



GREAT FLY TO HAVE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS WHEN OTHER FLIES HAVE SLOWED

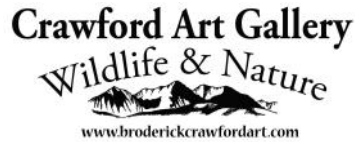
## JUNE Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
None at all	All Month	All Day	Dredging Nymphs:12-16 Prince, Hare's Ear, Zugbug, Pheasant Tail
Green, Brown Caddis	Early	L pm	12-14 Dark Elk Hair Caddis w/ Green 12-14 Dun & Green Caddis Pupa
Speckled Grey Caddis	Early	L pm	12-14 Grey Elk Hair Caddis w/ Green 12-14 Dun & Yellow Caddis Pupa
Small Dun Caddis	All month	Mid am	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis w/ Green 18 Grey Caddis Pupa
Giant Black Stonefly	All Month	E am	4-8 Black Stonefly Nymph
Brown Stonefly	All Month	E to mid am	10-12 Brown Stonefly Nymph
Light Cahill Mayfly	Late	E to L pm	12-14 Light Cahill 12-14 Light Cahill Nymph
Trico Mayfly	Mid-Late	Mid am	20 Parachute Trico
Trico Spinner Fall	Mid-Late	Late am	20-22 Polywing Black Spinner
Midges	All month	All day	18-20 Griffiths Gnat 18-20 Midge Pupa
Terrestrial	All month	All day	Ants, beetles, crickets, inch worms, etc.

***"All of us search for that perfect trout stream. Those who find it treasure it  
the rest of their lives.  
Those who don't keep on searching."***

**"Trout Streams I've Known" by Jimmy D. Moore**

## 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

One new member this month: Jason White from Helen, GA. Welcome, Jason!

Current Chapter membership: 144 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



## **Prez Notes**

We have an exciting month ahead of us. We will have Matt Kulp presenting at our next meeting. You will not want to miss his presentation about the Smoky Mountain National Park fisheries. Join us at Currahee Brewing Company on June 17<sup>th</sup>!

Also the Tallulah Kids Fishing Rodeo is always a treat. Kids and fishing, what's not to love about that! If you haven't had a chance to go, you need to see it. The Forest Service always has a few extra special treats: Smoky Bear, snakes and owls were there all there last year. Who knows what will show up this year? Be there on June 14<sup>th</sup>

A few notable mentions: thank you to Ken Kellerman for stepping up to help with buying food supplies for the Tallulah Kids Rodeo. Frank Patton normally does this but Frank is unable to help this year due to illness. Be sure to send Frank a note of well being and give Ken a big Thank You for stepping into Frank's shoes.

The Rabun Chapter continues to work with the USFS to improve and protect the Reed Creek Watershed. Persimmon Gap is a dispersed camping area along Reed Creek which needs some work to keep siltation out of the creek and the USFS has a plan. We will be firming up how our chapter can help make this happen. Keep an eye out on how this project proceeds.

In the meantime you can help by signing up with Jeff for the conservation team!

Trout Camp 2025 has wrapped up. If you have never helped with this event you are missing out. You can get involved now to help next year. We sponsored two great campers this year and they certainly had a great time .

Please step up and get involved. You can join the conservation team, volunteer to help with the kids rodeo or just come and participate in meetings. We are always looking for new leadership and new faces, so come join us!

Thank you all!

*Prez Tammy*