



TIGHT LINES

September 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](#)

NEXT RABUN CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, September 16—"Casting and Cold Cuts"

.Join us at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, September 16 for "Casting and Cold Cuts" at the Rabun County Park pond. The park is on Rabun County Park Road just off Highway 441, south of the high school. Grab a sammich provided by the Chapter and tune into Prez Tammy's brief chapter news. Then tune up your flycasting skills for the fall fishing season. You can practice pondside with instruction from some chapter vets if you desire. A limited number of loaner rods are available, too for prospective fly flingers.

Think you're already good at this casting gig? Then you competitive folks can sign up for Trey's casting contest in the field adjacent to the pond.

Not into casting? No problem. We've rented the two pondside picnic shelters from 6 to 8PM. Bring a lawn chair and some bug spray and just hang out with your old and new Rabunite buddies. Swap fish stories from your summer trips "out yonder" or plan new ones for fall.

RSVP's welcomed, but not required. They'll help us to buy enough vittles. Call or text Jeff at 706-892-6576 NLT 9/14.



Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- **Tuesday, Sept 9. Annual Chattooga River Electroshock Sampling.** Meet at Burrells Ford at 8:30 am. Sample site will be near the confluence of the Chattooga River and East Fork, so be prepared for a 2 mile hike. Bring your own drinking water, snacks, etc. Rain date will be Tuesday, Sept 30. See page 3 for more information.
- **Tuesday, Sept 16. Monthly Chapter Meeting.** “Casting for Cold Cuts” to be held at the Day Use Pavilion at the Rabun County Park. Fellowship, meeting, and meal starts at 6:00 pm, casting and games starts at 7:00 pm. See page 1 for more information.
- **Saturday, Sept 20. GA Council Quarterly Meeting.** Anyone can attend. 9:00 am in Blue Ridge, GA. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information
- **Tuesday, Sept 23. Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** Anyone can attend. 7:00 pm at the Northeast Georgia Food Bank. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, Sept 27. Sarahs Creek Conservation Work Project.** Meet at 8:30 am at the first camping area at Sarahs Creek Campground. See below for more information.
- **Wednesday, Oct 1. North Carolina Delayed Harvest Trout Season Begins.**
- **Sunday, Oct 5. Soque River Fly Fishing Festival.** To benefit the [Soque River Watershed Association](#). 9:00 am to 6:00 pm at Larry’s Lodge, Batesville, GA. See page 7 for more information.
- **Saturday, Nov 1. Georgia Delayed Harvest Trout Season Begins.**
- **Saturday, Nov 1. South Carolina Delayed Harvest Trout Season Begins.**
- **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.

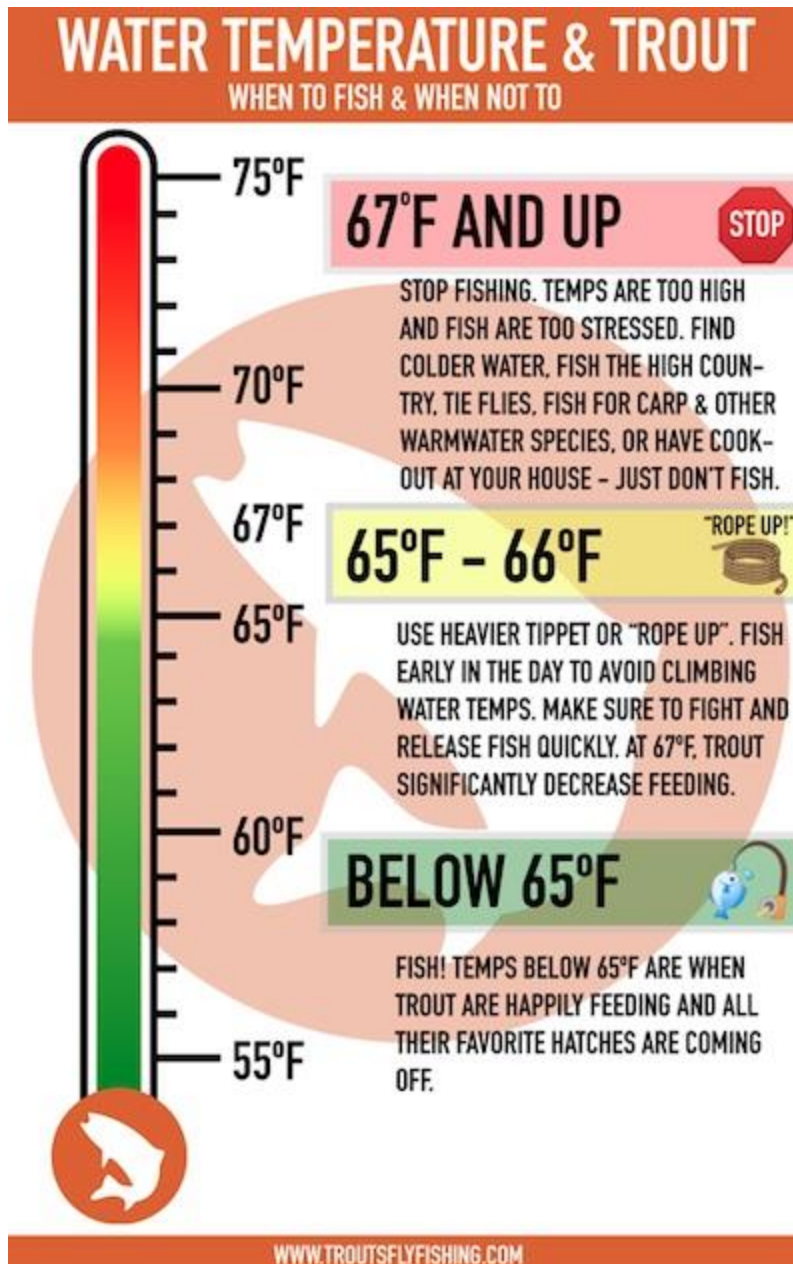
Volunteers Needed for Stream Conservation Project

The Rabun Chapter TU, with assistance from the GA Tech 5 Rivers club, has a stream conservation project planned for Saturday, Sept 27 at Sarahs Creek. This is a very important project in the history of our Chapter in that it is the first stream structures that we have been approved to install without being under the direct supervision of either the Forest Service or the GA DNR. To do this right we need lots of volunteers! Meet at the first camping area of [Sarahs Creek Campground](#), on the left just before 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.



Volunteers Needed for Chattooga River Electroshocking

The annual fish sampling on the Chattooga River for 2025 will be on Tuesday September 9th with a rain date of September 30th. We will meet at Burrell's Ford and start the safety briefing at 8:30. We are going to try to do a new site this year to give the Spoonauger site a rest. The new site may be as far up as the confluence with the East Fork of the Chattooga River, so plan accordingly.



[CLICK HERE](#) to check the water temperature on the Chattooga River at Burrells Ford.

[CLICK HERE](#) to check the water temperature on the Chattahoochee River at Helen, GA.

Rabun Chapter Trout Unlimited Fundraiser

A Custom Built Fly Rod & Reel Outfit! Including:

Winston Pure 2 – 8'3" 4 Wt. Rod

Sage Spectrum 3-4 Reel

Wulff Triangle Taper 4 Wt. Fly Line

SA Dacron 20 Lb. Backing

3 – Frog Hair 9.5/ 4X Leaders

3 - Frog Hair 9.5' 5X Leaders

1 – Furled 7' Leader, 3-5 Wt.

3 – Frog Hair Tippet Spools, 4X, 5X, & 6X

The rod is custom-built by Mack Martin, of [Atlanta Fly Fishing School](#)!



To purchase tickets [CLICK HERE](#) or click this QR Code



**Event will start mid-July, 2025. Drawing will be October 2025 via
Online Sweepstakes by Event Groove (for Trout Unlimited)**

Thank you, Mack, for your generous donation!

From the Archives, taken from the March, 1988 issue of Tightlines

A Personal Observation, by Tom Landreth

Recollections of time spent on pristine trout streams are usually of quiet and private moments attempting to outwit a wily Brown Trout or admiring the coloration of a native “Speck”. Since my association with fellow Rabun Chapter members, my thoughts include another element to this scenario.

“WHAA-HOOING” or “WHOO-HAAING”. You’ve heard it: the yell of a Rabunite when a [good’un](#) is hooked.

To some this may seem a discordant note but to these ears it isn’t. After much thought I’ve decided that this exclamation of joy really has little to do with catching a trout. It’s simply a declaration of “now” or “the present”. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow is far away. When you are wading your favorite stream, mayflies coming off the surface in great numbers, the water is clean and clear and bright and you are surrounded by the beauty of the woods and mountains, you rightfully celebrate.

You are here, you are now, and you are present. WHAA-HOOOO !!!

Editors Note: Many of you will remember Tom. Oh, the stories we can tell! For those who didn’t know Tom, he was a Charter Member of the Rabun Chapter, serving as Chapter President, Tightlines Editor, along with many other leadership positions.

He was an accomplished artist, and graciously donated many of his prints to the Chapter for fund-raising. I have—and cherish—several of them. Where I am sitting now, I am looking at his print “Appalachian Autumn”, a painting he did after fishing a particular stream in North Carolina, a stream that Tammy and I know well. The print perfectly captures the feeling of being “in the present” that Tom describes above.

Tom passed away in 2007 and his beloved widow, June, currently lives in Slidell, LA, where she is close to a daughter and grandchildren. Tammy and I visited her last year and can report that she is well and happy.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Rabun Chapter members Frank and Susan Patton on celebrating 50 years of marriage! We love you both!



July 8th, 2025

Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 371
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Re: Donation for Smithgall Woods Education Programs

Dear Chapter Members,

Thank you, so much, for your wonderfully generous donation of \$1000 to the Smithgall Woods Regional Education Center (SWREC)!

It has been another amazing year, at Smithgall, with 1042 programs reaching 32,101 constituents. Along with onsite & outreach programming, multiple professional development opportunities have been taken as well. Both a Master Herpetology course and Master Husbandry course have been completed to increase & update our information about the reptiles & amphibians of Georgia, along with other educational trainings to enable the SWREC to provide the best wildlife-based programming possible.

None of these things would be possible without the kind and generous assistance of folks like Rabun TU. Your support over the years has allowed for the maintenance and success of our goal of educating the good people of northeast Georgia. Thank you for everything you do. It would not be possible without all of the member's generosity!

Sincerely,



Kathy Church
Wildlife Interpretive Specialist
Smithgall Woods State Park



Tallulah Falls School onsite field trip 2025

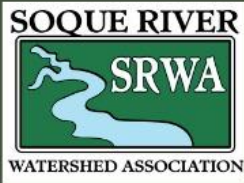


Rabun County Library June 2025

Smithgall Woods
State Park



**THE MODERN FLY FISHERS
PRESENTS
SOQUE RIVER FLY-FISHING FESTIVAL**



**SPONSORED BY
SOQUE RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
WITH HELP FROM GEORGIA WILD TROUT**



**SUNDAY
OCTOBER 5, 2025
9AM TO 6PM**

LARRY'S LODGE, BATESVILLE, GA

This unique celebration brings together anglers of all ages (recommended age 10+) to learn about fly-fishing and offers an opportunity for anglers to fly-fish in private water.

**THIS IS NOT JUST A FESTIVAL – IT'S TWO EVENTS IN ONE:
THE LEARNING CENTER: AN IMMERSIVE, HANDS-ON
EDUCATIONAL SERIES LED BY EXPERTS.**

**THE FLY FISHING TRADE SHOW: A DYNAMIC MARKETPLACE
WHERE COMPANIES AND NONPROFITS SHOWCASE PRODUCTS,
SERVICES, AND CAUSES.**

September Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
Small Dun Caddis	All month	Mid am to late pm	18 Brown or Grey Elk Hair Caddis 18 Grey Caddis Pupa
Speckled Grey Caddis	Late	Late pm	14-16 Dark Elk Hair Caddis w/ Yellow & Brown 14-16 Dun and Yellow Caddis Pupa
Large October Caddis	Late	Early am and Late pm	8-10 Ginger Elk Hair Caddis 8-10 Ginger Caddis Pupa
Trico Mayfly	Mid to Late	Mid am	20 Parachute Trico
Trico Spinner Fall	Mid to Late	Late pm	20-22 Polywing Black Spinner
Midges	All month	All day	18-22 Griffiths Gnat 18-22 Midge Pupa
Terrestrials	All month	All day	Ants, beetles, crickets, inch worms, etc.
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

Zug Bug

HOOK: Nymph #10-16

THREAD: Olive

TAIL: 4-6 Peacock Swords

BODY: Peacock Herl Palmer with Silver Tinsel

BACK: Black, Brown, or Yellow Foam Rubber

WING CASE: Wood Duck

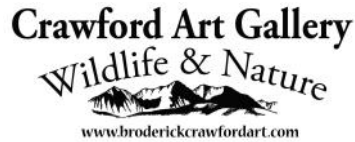
LEGS: Brown Hackle

HEAD: Brass Bead



ONE OF MY FAVORITE FLIES TO FISH AS A DROPPER. DURING A CADDIS HATCH ON TOP AND THE RISES SLOW DOWN DROP THIS IMITATION OF A CASE CADDIS BEHIND A DRY CADDIS IT HAS DONE THE JOB FOR ME. JUST FOR HISTORY OF THIS FLY WAS INVENTED IN 1930 BY J. CLIFF ZUG.

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: Rick Owens from Clayton, GA. Welcome, Rick!

Current Chapter membership: 140 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

Wow... what a summer!! We have had plenty of rain, humidity and heat. I don't know about you, but I am ready for the cooler air of fall. But I believe it will still be a while yet.

Pat and I have been busy this summer with gardening, yard work, and... chickens! Yes, we adopted 8 chickens. They were supposed to be all hens but one turned out to be a very loud rooster! He's a busy guy—he has seven girlfriends to keep track of. We named him Romeo. So if anyone want some feathers for your flies, give me a call.

Because of the hot days and warm water temperatures, most Rabunites forgo trout fishing here in North Georgia and instead scatter to cooler climes. Some call it “headed west of Hiawassee”, some say “going out Yonder”, and some even “go up North” to Canada. Wherever you went, I hope you had a fun and fruitful trip! Please remember to share your pictures and stories in Tightlines; just email them to [Pat](#).

Pat and I are no exception, we too want to get out of this heat. In a few days we are headed “out West” to familiar territory in Wyoming. We do love Wyoming! There we will meet up with some dear friends for several days of fishing, fellowship, and laughter, all in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. It doesn't get any better than that. We'll share our pictures and stories in the next Tightlines.

But soon we should all be back home and then it's time to get back to business—Rabun Chapter TU business, that is. We have several important activities coming up this month. First up will be the annual Chattooga River Electroshocking Work Day, to be held on Tuesday, Sept 9. If you have never helped at one of these work days I highly encourage you to at least try it once. It's a lot of work, but also fun and informative. We'll meet at the Burrells Ford bridge at 8:30 am.

Next is our Monthly Chapter Meeting. On Tuesday Sept 16 we will repeat the “Casting and Cold Cuts” themed meeting that was so successful last September. This is a great opportunity for both experienced and new fly fishers to work on their casting. We will have some very experienced and knowledgeable casting instructors there to help out. A special *thank you!* to Trey and Jeff for making this happen.

Finally, on Saturday, September 27 we will meet with the Georgia Tech Five Rivers TU club for a stream improvement project at Sarah's Creek. We will be placing new stream structures in the creek, cleaning up the camping area and then hopefully fishing afterwards. We need lots of volunteers! Please come join us for some conservation work and a lot of fun.

More information on these and more activities can be found in this issue of Tightlines. I am looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Prez Tammy

ps: Be sure to purchase your tickets for the Mack Martin Rod Sweepstakes!