



TIGHT LINES

November 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, November 18

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.

Fly Tying for Everyone!

Come to our November meeting and give fly tying a try. We'll have several veteran Rabunites and a few more TU friends show you how to do it. Whether you're a rookie or a veteran tyer, you will pick up a few tips. We'll have some vises and tying materials ready for y'all.

Don't forget: bring your new or gently used fly fishing equipment to the Chapter meeting to be donated to the 5 Rivers Clubs. See page 10 for more information.

Hope to see you there, whether you're interested in tying or just swapping fish stories with our Rabunite clan. Guests are welcome.



Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- **Saturday, Nov 1. Georgia Delayed Harvest Trout Season Begins.**
- **Saturday, Nov 1. South Carolina Delayed Harvest Trout Season Begins.**
- **Wednesday, November 12 - 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](#) or see page 3 for more information.
- **Saturday, Nov 15. Rabun Chapter Work Project: Trash Pickup on “The River”.** Meet at 9:30 am at the parking lot on the Georgia side of the Hwy 28 bridge over the Chattooga River. Trash bags provided. See page 4 or contact Tammy Hopton for more information.
- **Tuesday, Nov 18. Monthly Chapter Meeting.** “Fly Tying for Everyone ” Currahee Brewery, 93 West Savannah Street, Clayton, GA. Fellowship starts at 6:30, program starts at 7:00. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) or see page 1 for more information.
- **Tuesday, Nov 25. Monthly Board of Directors Meeting.** Northeast Georgia Food Bank. Starts at 7:00 pm. Anyone can attend. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, Dec 6. Quarterly Georgia Council Trout Unlimited Meeting.** Anyone can attend. 9:00 am. US Forest Service office, Gainesville, GA. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Monday, Dec 8. Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner.** 6:00-9:00 pm. James Room at the Dillard House Restaurant. Cost is \$49.00 per person, excluding alcohol. Beer and wine may be purchased at the dinner or you may BYOB. See pages 4-6 for more information. Please RSVP by Nov 26 to [Jack Wintle](#) if you plan to attend.
- **There will be no Monthly Chapter Meeting in December.**
- **Saturday, Feb 7. 39th Annual Rabun Rendezvous.** Doors open at 4:30 pm. Rabun County Civic Center, 201 West Savannah Street, Clayton, GA. See pages 7-8 or contact Ray King for more information.
- **Friday, March 13—Sunday, March 15. Trout Unlimited Southeast Regional Rendezvous.** To be held at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

... this winter I'm determined for once to fish sensibly, and by that I mean in comfort, to try not only to match the hatch but also to match the weather.

Tom Sutcliffe, M.D.

Reflections on Fishing (1990)

Fall Chapter Campout!

The Rabun Chapter will hold its annual Fall Chapter Campout on Nov 12 -16, 2025 at Oconee State Park, just across the SC line from Rabun County. It's sure to be a great time for fishing and fellowship.

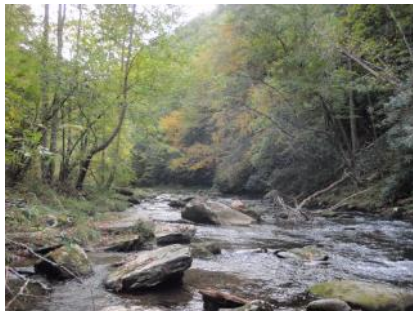
The Georgia Delayed Harvest trout season begins Nov 1 and the Chattooga River should be well-stocked by the time of our campout. Yee Haa!!!

Campsite #93 in the "Wooded Loop" will be the official gathering site for meals. Bring your own chair to sit around the fire! Campsites fill up fast this time of year, so don't delay in making your campsite reservations.

We will cook and eat breakfast and supper together every day and you are on your own for your noon meal. If you volunteer to cook a meal, then all meals are free for you. If you don't cook a meal, then you pay \$5 for each meal you eat to the cook. Now that's a deal! Let Terry Rivers know of the meal you wish to cook, and what meals you plan to eat so the cooks can plan the meals. And hey! - if you don't want to camp, just come by for a meal or sit by the fire! Friday supper is *"Bring Your Own Steak and Potato"* night!

If you have questions or plan to cook or eat a meal, contact your camp host by email [Terry Rivers](mailto:TerryRivers@troutunlimited.org) or at 770-595-2640. To make campsite reservations, [CLICK HERE](#).

Let's have a big turnout.... see you there!



"Poking at a campfire with a stick is one of life's great satisfactions."

— Patrick F. McManus

Report from October Chapter Meeting

Thanks to all Rabunites and our guests who came out to Currahee Brewing Co on Tuesday night. Jamie King gave us a great program on the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust's conservation accomplishments and desires for future work in the north GA mountains. The trust has bucks and is hunting interested landowners!

Learn more about GALT here:

<https://www.galandtrust.org/>



Stream Clean-Up Opportunity!

The Rabun Chapter will have a stream clean-up work project on Saturday November 15. We will meet up at the parking lot on the Georgia side of Highway 28 bridge across the Chattooga River, also known as the Russell Bridge, at 9:30 am. There we will separate into teams and pick up trash up and down stream on both sides of the Chattooga River and at Burrells Ford.

Trash bags will be provided, but we suggest you bring thick gloves to protect your hands. Contact Tammy by phone or text at (706) 982-1315 or by email at teajatee@gmail.com if you have questions. See you there!



You're Invited to the 2025 Chapter Christmas Dinner!

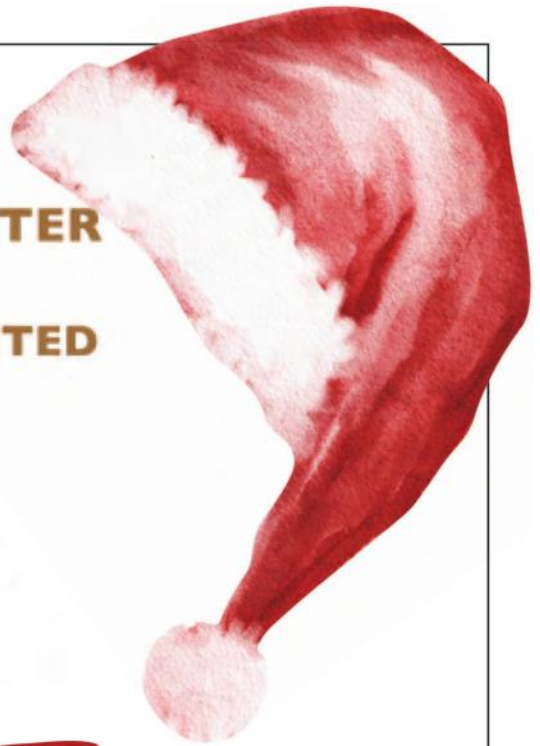
It's that time of year again! We will be having our annual Christmas Dinner in the James Room (the same room at the Dillard House as we had the dinner last year) on Monday, December 8, beginning at 6:00 pm.

The cost for the dinner this year is \$49 per person. Part of the added cost includes a bartender (cash bar) which allows everyone to enjoy a drink as well as allowing a limited number of folks to bring their own wine (up to 8 bottles). If we didn't have the bartender there would be a \$10 Corkage Fee per bottle. Please see the attached invitation and menu on pages 5 and 6.

The Chapter is looking forward to seeing you and spending some holiday time together. Invite your friends and family—the more the merrier!

Please RSVP to [Jack Wintle](#) by November 26th.

**THE
RABUN CHAPTER
OF
TROUT UNLIMITED**



Christmas

PARTY

DECEMBER 8TH



6 - 9 PM

**Dillard House
768 Franklin Str.,
Dillard, GA 30537**

RSVP to Jack Wintle-678.491.4601
jawintle@gmail.com



The Dillard House

HOLIDAY MENU

SALAD

WINTER GARDEN SALAD WITH LOCAL APPLES,
CANDIED PECANS, AND APPLE CIDER VINAIGRETTE

SIDES

ACORN SQUASH SOUFFLE - MASHED POTATOES
GRAVY - CABBAGE CASSEROLE - GREEN BEANS

ENTREE

SOUTHERN BUTTERMILK FRIED CHICKEN
ROAST PORK LOIN

BREAD

YEAST ROLLS & CORNBREAD MUFFINS

DESSERT

APPLE BETTY W WHIPPED CREAM

BEVERAGES

SOUTHERN SWEET & UNSWEET ICED TEA,
LEMONADE, WATER,

Cash Bar Available



SAVE THE DATE – RABUN RENDEZVOUS!!!

Event: 2026 Rabun Rendezvous

Location: Rabun County Civic Center, Clayton, GA

When: Saturday, February 7, 2026

Time: Event begins at 4:30 pm

Please join us for the 2026 Rabun Rendezvous at the Rabun County Civic Center in Clayton, GA. The Foxfire Boys will be in attendance providing their special brand of Bluegrass Music, great deals on items in the Silent Auction and Bucket Raffle areas great fellowship and good food! More details to follow on the menu as these details are being finalized.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We need items donated to support the fundraising event, volunteers to help staff the areas and ensure a smooth event, and most importantly, **WE NEED YOU TO COME!** All the net proceeds go to fund Trout Unlimited activities. Funds are used to support, youth education and Trout Camp. GA DNR, Kids Fishing Events, Casting for Recovery, Project Healing Waters and many conservation efforts.

Please find attached a copy of the solicitation letter for the 2025 Rabun Rendezvous. This will help explain our activities to potential donors. Arts and crafts, donated trips, fishing and other outdoor equipment are just some of the items that are used to help raise funds.

Thanks for your support of the Rabun County Trout Unlimited Chapter and we hope to see you at the 2025 Rabun Rendezvous!

HOW CAN YOU ATTEND?

Advanced ticket sales will be available on the online site at TU Events Center (Will be up later in November).

Adult - \$45.00

Youth, 6 thru current college student - \$20.00

Preschool Dinner, 5 & Under – NO CHARGE

AT THE DOOR:

Adult - \$50.00

Youth, 5 thru current college student - \$25.00

Get your tickets early and join us for a great time!!

Ray King

Rabun TU Treasurer / Rendezvous Chair



October 27, 2025

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited is planning our annual fund-raising event and we are asking for your support. For the 39th year we will host the famous **"RABUN RENDEZVOUS"** to be held on February 7, 2026, at the Rabun County Civic Center, Clayton, GA. The venue has changed due to the renovations still in process at The Dillard House, Dillard, GA. Along with a buffet meal and great bluegrass music, we will have a silent auction and bucket raffle.

Our Chapter is committed to protecting and improving the cold-water fisheries in our area and supporting other chapters in their efforts. However, it takes funds to provide the support, equipment, and expenses required to carry out this mission. The annual Rabun Rendezvous is our main source of funding for these efforts.

Here are a few examples of the projects we accomplished with the funds received from this year's fundraising and past Rendezvous events:

Fly-Fishing 101 Education Event;

Fly Fishing 201 Event – Georgia Women's Fly Fishers;

Assistance on USFS Projects, e.g., stream clean-up, trout habitat enhancement, and stream bank restoration (Sarah's Creek and Persimmon Gap efforts).

Financial support for GA Council Trout Unlimited Youth Trout Camp;

Sponsoring youngsters to attend the Trout Unlimited Youth Trout Camp;

Financial support of the GA Department of Natural Resources Smithgall Woods Conservation Education Program;

Financial support for the Kid's Fishing Event at Tallulah River (US Forest Service);

Financial support for Black Rock State Park Fishing Rodeo;

Financial support for Casting for Recovery;

Financial support for Project Healing Waters – Multiple Chapters;

Financial support for Georgia Wildlife Federation;

Five Rivers Collegiate Support;

And TU Embrace-A-Stream Program

With this letter we are respectfully asking you for a donation to support our mission of protecting and improving the cold-water fisheries in our area. We are appreciative of any donation, such as gift certificates or physical items that may be included in the raffles or auctions, or through cash donations. Appropriate recognition will be given to donors at both the event and through our monthly newsletter. Our non-profit Federal Tax Exempt 501(c)3 Tax ID Number is # 521766093 and our Georgia State Tax ID is # 067800056.

Please take time to visit www.rabuntu.org and look at the photos from past Rabun Rendezvous events and other activities. And of course, you and your family and friends are invited to attend this year's event!

Thank you for your consideration of support for the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Rabun Rendezvous fund raising event.

Sincerely;

Tammy Hopton, President

Email: teajatee@gmail.com

Ray King, Rendezvous Chair

Email: rking072074@gmail.com

Report from Ladies Fly Fishing 201

Jeff Durniak (Dredger)

We had a big time at The Bend on Sunday afternoon, the 26th! Sixteen rookie ladies were treated to Rabunite 201, an instream instructional session on flyfishing for trout.

Big thanks are due to Jimmy and Jake at Unicoi Outfitters in Helen for our exclusive use of their 1.5 miles of prime Hooch trout water. And a debt of gratitude is owed to our 16 awesome volunteer guides via a partnership between Trout Unlimited (TU) and the GA Women Flyfishers (GWFF).

Our hero guides and streamside assistants included Rabunites Sarah B, Tammy H, Peter C, Ken K, Frank T, David D, and Dredger, Foothills TU'ers Steve L and Jeff S, and a big bunch of GWFF gals: Mary Parker, Elisha, Lisa, Lindsey, Circe, Annie, Ellen, Danielle, prez Hilton, and Megan.

While the catching was tough in the low, clear flows, the fishing and fellowship were grand. We had plenty of strikes, hookups, smiles and high-fives, and hope to see many of these new fly fishers at our next club meetings and stream outings.

We are calling the event a complete success. In Rabunite terms, that's a big ole Waaah-Hooo! Thanks to everyone who came out on a fun-filled Sunday afternoon. And for those of you who missed this shindig, join our clubs and get in on the upcoming events!

Tight lines,

Event Organizers

Megan (GWFF) and Dredger (TU)

<https://www.georgiawomenflyfishing.com/>

<https://rabuntu.org/about/>



A Request from the Chapter

Rabunites, clean out your fishing closet and help a fly fishing rookie! Here's your chance to fuel the next generation of TUsers.

We've been working with the three active Georgia Five Rivers fishing clubs at UGA, GA Tech, and North Paulding High School. The good news is that lots of students have joined these clubs. The bad news is that many of them own little fly fishing equipment.

That's where we can help! Thanks to your Rendezvous fundraising efforts, we are buying \$500 worth of supplies for each club. But that's not enough. Go clean out your closets and donate good, used equipment and supplies to the 5R cause. Great items are rods, reels, wading shoes, dip nets, leaders, tippet spools, strike indicators, and flies.

Bring your donations to the November chapter meeting. Jeff will collect them and get them to the clubs. You never know, your used boots could enable a future TU leader to get hooked on fishing and then reeled into conservation. And you'll have a great excuse to buy some new equipment for yourselves!

On Fly Fishing Etiquette

From [Flylab](#)

Flylab wouldn't be serving its mission without at least some guidance on stream and angling etiquette. Not that fly fishing needs a rule book, nevertheless, some basic ethos should be followed in order to make the outdoor experience better for everyone.

Don't jump in the same run that someone else is fishing. Same bank, opposite bank, whatever, don't fish the same run unless you are invited to do so.

Assume another angler is working from downstream up. No matter how the person is fishing, you can figure that most good anglers will be moving upstream.

Looking at a river, you can usually see the runs where trout will be. It's good form to leave any angler you encounter at least two or three runs above where you find him fishing, before you think about dropping in the river. In a crowded stream—say, New York's Beaverkill on a Saturday in May—this might be impractical. At the least, give other anglers their space.

If you park at a public access area and don't want to be crowded out, consider leaving notice of your intentions. Put a sign on your windshield—"I'm fishing upstream-down," or "I'm fishing 400 yards downstream, then back up"—to give anglers arriving after you a fair warning of your intentions.

Don't fish posted, private water. If you do so, you're poaching.

And don't make your comments and conversation a part of another angler's experience unless he or she wants them to be.

Play by these few, simple rules, and everyone has a good time.

The Future of Trout Camp

Rodney Tumlin, GA Council TU Chairperson

Fellow Georgia Trout Unlimited leaders, after serious consideration of the future of our annual Trout Camp the Executive Board for Georgia Trout Unlimited has determined that we will not conduct a Trout Camp in 2026.

This decision was very hard especially following twenty plus years of being one of the most successful camps under the Trout Unlimited banner. The determining factors came after an extended period of discussion where we were unable to identify new Camp Leadership. After twenty plus years of service our Camp founders and Director had decided to step down and finding the right team to continue as in the past was a daunting task.

Going forward, we will continue to conduct our Dream Trip fundraiser. Funds and donations will be used for youth education and other Georgia Council programs and activities. This may include the 5 Rivers Program, Trout in the Classroom, Chapter Youth Camps, Smithgall Woods Education, chapter support such as "Matching Funds" and methods of reaching our youth and potential members still to be determined.

The door may be closing on our past successes but be assured it is opening wide to the future for Youth Education, Cold-Water Conservation and Chapter Support.

Huge kudos go out to the Trout Camp leadership, Charlie and Kathy Breithaupt, Mack Martin, Rodney Tumlin, and all of the hundreds of volunteers who have given of themselves to make the Georgia Trout Camp what it has been. We have reached and changed hundreds of young people's lives, many of which are still involved with Trout Unlimited.

Thank you for your continued support over the many years and we look forward to working closely with each of our thirteen chapters and leadership as we move forward.

And the Winner Is.....

And the winner of our 2025 Mack Martin Rod Sweepstakes is....

Monty English!

Monty is a long-time Rabunite who always supports the chapter with his plentiful purchases of raffle and banquet tickets.

His sweet, new stick (with matching reel and line) will be delivered soon.

Congrats Monty!!!!

And thanks to all raffle players who helped us raise more than \$1,100 for the chapter's conservation and outreach efforts. If you're not already a member, join our clan soon and get in on all of our fun and accomplishments.



Transitional Trouting in Fall Delayed Harvest Streams

Click the link below for great tips on trout fishing through the fall season on Delayed Harvest streams, written by Rabunite Jeff Durniak, aka The Dredger.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Call for A Volunteer

I have decided to resign as Editor of the Rabun Chapter monthly newsletter, "Tightlines", effective March, 2026. I will make and mail the March newsletter, but we are looking for a new editor to begin that duty with the April, 2026 newsletter.

There have been six editors of Tightlines since the Chapter's inception in 1986. Their names and tenures follow:

- Tom Landreth, 11 years, 4 months;
- Sharon Wilson, 4 years;
- Charlie Breithaupt, 2 years, 1 month;
- Doug Adams, 8 years, 6 months;
- Michele Crawford, 4 years, 5 months; and
- Pat Hopton, 7 years, 11 months.

It's time for me to step down. I wish to commit more time and energy to my walk with the Lord and to my work at home and church. I hope you understand.

The position of Tightlines Editor is not that hard of a job. It takes me about 4 hours per month to do each newsletter. The new editor can change the format of the newsletter in any way they wish, and thus possibly reduce the amount of time needed to do it. I am available to help get the new editor started.

If you are interested in volunteering to be the next Tightlines Editor, please contact any of the BOD members as shown on page 15. Thank you for allowing me to serve as Tightlines Editor. I have enjoyed it.

Pat Hopton



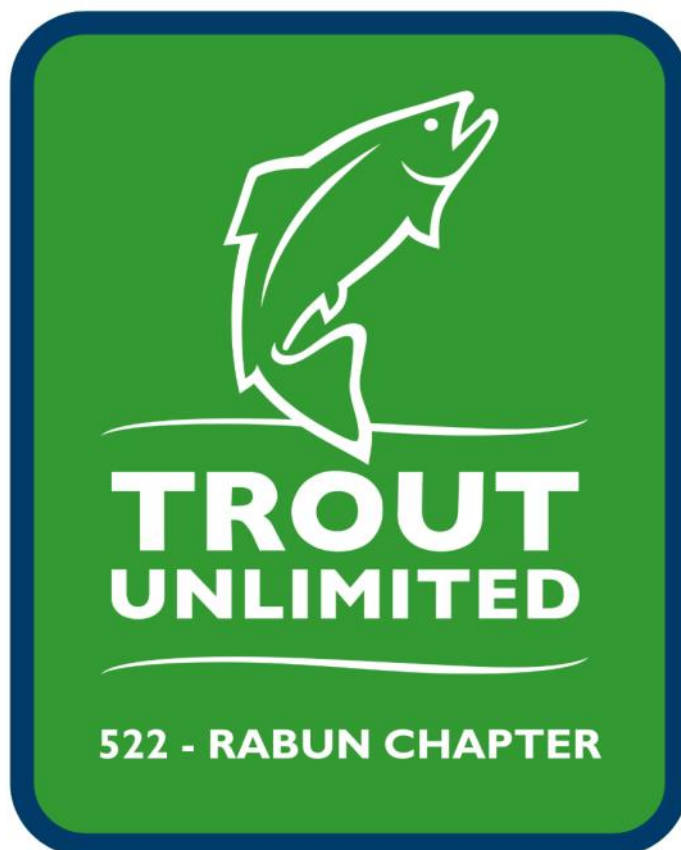
Rabun Chapter Membership Update

No new members this month.

Current Chapter membership: 133 adult members and 1 youth member.

You are Invited to Join Trout Unlimited!

Click here tu.org/join522 or scan the QR code below:



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP FOR
A TROUT UNLIMITED MEMBERSHIP!**



November 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
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
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

Mylar Prince Nymph

HOOK: #12x Scud

HEAD: Gold Bead

TAIL: Brown Goose Biots

BODY: Peral Mylar and Copper Wire Palmered

THORAX: Peacock Hair

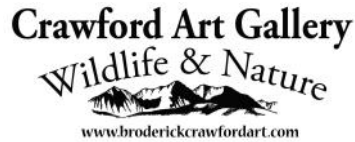
WING : White Goose Biots

Great attractor fly to use during the Delayed Harvest season! Drop it behind a dry fly or fish it under a strike indicator.



See you on The River! Terry

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.

How to Connect With the Rabun Chapter TU

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/rabuntu

Follow us on Instagram at @rabunchaptertu

Check out our website at www.rabuntu.org

Have photos, videos or news to share with Chapter members? Send them to either [Jeff Durniak](#) or [Tammy Hopton](#).

To send an email directly to the Chapter President, use rabunchapterprez@gmail.com.

For postal mail, use PO Box 371
Clayton, GA 30525

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

Whooooa! We just hit the cooler weather, or maybe it just hit us. November has snuck up on me.

The good thing about November, besides pumpkin spice flavored everything, is looking forward to fishing the Delayed Harvest streams. I have been hearing rumors of productive fishing (catching!) in several of my favorite streams, some not even designated DH. I guess I need to just go see for myself. I only need to put off those other less important things like chicken duties and go fishing! As the Old Man used to say: Fishing is life. Everything else is just details.

We have a lot of great events coming up and I encourage you to join the fun. Next week is our annual Fall chapter campout at Oconee State Park. Come join us for some fishing and sitting around the campfire. And maybe bring a coat and blanket for your chair.

Also, we will have a stream side clean up work project on Saturday November 15th. We hope to cover the area along the Chattooga River around Burrell's Ford as well as the Highway 28 area. It's always a lot of fun and we could use your help!

The next few months are busy ones: Fly Tying at Currahee Brewery on November 18th, the Christmas Dinner on December 8th, and the Rabun Rendezvous on February 7th! Please help us make these events memorable and enjoyable.

We will have several upcoming vacancies in our chapter leadership coming up. Would you raise your hand to volunteer to be in a leadership position? You can make a difference in our chapter and make changes that could benefit our fisheries and impact the direction of our chapter.

If you are interested in serving in a leadership position, we have several opportunities (President, Vice President, Board of Director and Tightlines Editor, among others). You can also serve on a committee or help with our yearly events. Please let us know if you have questions and want to find out more.

Hope to see you at the campout or at the next meeting at Currahee!

Tammy Hopton, Prez