



# **TIGHT LINES**

## **December 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

### ***Annual Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner***

**Who:** All Chapter members and guests!

**When:** Monday, Dec 8

**Where:** The Conference Center, located at the Dillard House, Dillard, GA

**Social starts at 5:30 pm**

**Dinner starts at 6:15 pm**

**Cost:** \$49 per person

**Pay at the door, checks payable to Rabun Chapter TU**



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

- **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.** 5:30-9:00 pm. James Room inside the Dillard House Conference Center. Cost is \$49.00 per person, excluding alcohol. Beer and wine may be purchased at the dinner or you may BYOB. See pages 2-4 for more information or contact [Jack Wintle](#).
- **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 5-7 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.
- **Saturday, April 11. 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 2026 Dream Trip Raffle will be announced. Contact Foothills Chapter President [Pat Berzsery](#) for more information.

### **You're Invited to the 2025 Rabun Chapter Christmas Dinner!**

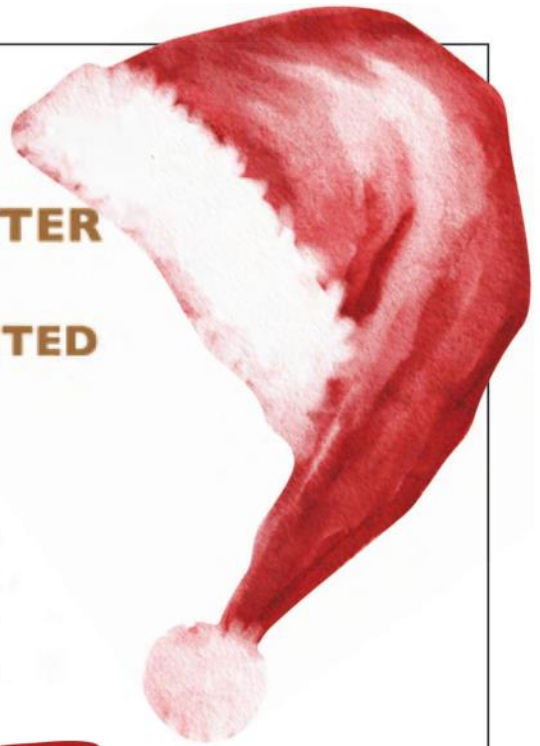
It's that time of year again! We will be having our annual Christmas Dinner in the James Room (the same room at the Dillard House as we had the dinner last year) on Monday, December 8, with the social time starting at 5:30 and dinner beginning at 6:15 pm.

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!

Even if you didn't sign-up beforehand, you are still welcome to attend!

**THE  
RABUN CHAPTER  
OF  
TROUT UNLIMITED**



# Christmas

## PARTY

---

DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

---



---

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**

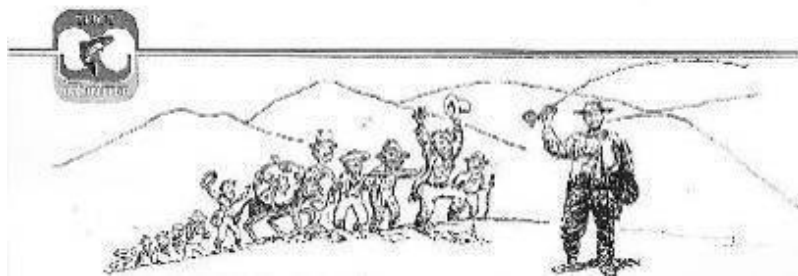
APPLE BETTY W WHIPPED CREAM

#### **BEVERAGES**

SOUTHERN SWEET & UNSWEET ICED TEA,  
LEMONADE, WATER,

*Cash Bar Available*





The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited proudly presents  
A Celebration of Rivers, Streams, Trout, and Trout Fishing!

## Please join us for the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual **RABUN RENDEZVOUS**

*"The Rendezvous was unlike anything before or since, a gathering of uninhibited men down from the mountains. The event attracted perhaps a hundred mountain men, their Indian wives, and assorted visiting tribesmen. Amusements included gambling, drinking, storytelling – continuing day and night." Quote from [The Mountain Men](#), by George Laycock.*

**WHEN: Saturday, February 7, 2026.**

**WHERE: The Rabun County Civic Center**, located 201 West Savannah Street, Clayton, GA.

**WHO: Everyone! The more the better! Anyone interested in conserving and protecting our cold-water resources, including their families, friends, and all who love cold streams, trout, and trout fishing.**

**SOCIAL: Doors open at 4:00 pm.**

The Foxfire Boys will again provide their 'down home' style of bluegrass picking and singing for your enjoyment from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. CD's will be available for purchase.

Raffle and silent auction items will be available for your chance of purchase. We welcome donations of raffle and auction items!

**DINNER:** A variety of barbeque meats and delicious vegetables and deserts, all made by [Blue Hound Barbe-que](#), Dillard GA, will be served at 6:30 pm. It is a serve yourself buffet and you will not leave hungry!

**ENTRY COST:** Advance ticket sales are \$45 for adults and \$20 for youth ages 5 through college, or at the door for \$50 for adults and \$25 for youth ages 5 through college. Advance sales may be made at <https://go.tulocalevents.org/71c306>. Cash, check, AMEX, VISA or MasterCard will be accepted at the door.

**LODGING:** Make lodging reservations on your own. [CLICK HERE](#) for a listing of Rabun County hotels.

The 2025 Rabun Rendezvous provided financial support for the following: GA Council Youth Trout Camp; Sponsoring youth to attend Trout Camp; GA Department of Natural Resources Smithgall Woods Conservation Education Program; US Forest Service Kid's Fishing Event at Tallulah River; Fly-Fishing 101 educational event; Helicopter stocking program; In-stream habitat improvement on a brook trout stream; Casting for Recovery; Fly Fishing for Vets; National TU's Youth Education, First Cast, Embrace-A-Stream, Griffiths Circle, and Southeast Lands program; and GA Council Conservation fund.

## **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!

### **MENU:**

Award Winning Blue Hound BBQ, Dillard, GA, will cater this year's event. Plan on enjoying:

**Pulled Pork, Sliced Turkey, Chopped Smoked Chicken**

**Collard Greens, Appalachian Soup Beans, Sweet Potato Crunch**

**Legendary Banana Puddin'**

**AND MORE!**

### **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 stream conservation projects, youth education. GA DNR Kids Fishing Events, Casting for Recovery, Project Healing Waters and many other conservation efforts.

### **HOW CAN YOU ATTEND?**

Advanced ticket sales are available online at the TU Events Center:

<https://go.tulocalevents.org/71c306>

**Adult - \$45.00**

**Youth, 6 thru current college student - \$20.00 (thru 23 Years)**

**Preschool Dinner, 5 & Under – NO CHARGE**

**NO PAPER TICKET REQUIRED - PURCHASED ITEMS WILL BE LISTED AND RE  
DEEMED AT DOOR!!**

**Purchase at Door (Night of the Event)**

**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**



## Scenes from Previous Rabun Rendezvous



## 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 beginning with the April, 2026 newsletter.

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 11. Thank you for allowing me to serve as Tightlines Editor. I have enjoyed it.

Pat Hopton

## Tickets for 2026 Dream Trip are Now on Sale!

Here's a great stocking stuffer! Get your Dream Trip 2026 tickets and help support Georgia Trout Limited's Youth Education programs.



### Dream Trip Grand Prize Fly-Fishing Vacation for Two

- Grand Prize Winner and Guest receive - Five days hosted fishing/six nights lodging in Idaho for two/July 19-24, 2026 plus \$500 total in travel expenses.
- Grand Prize Winner and Guest each receive: A float trip on the Madison River, *plus choice of*
- Winston AIR2 - 3 wt- 6 wt. or BILL-x 4 wt.-8 wt. fly rod. Fly reel with Scientific Anglers or Winston Energy Fly Line, a fly box and flies for the trip.
- Plus LOTS of runner-up prizes!

Get your tickets here: [GA Council of Trout Unlimited Dream Trip 2026 | Trout Unlimited](#)

Don't forget to designate Rabun Chapter as your sponsored chapter.

Winners will be announced at the Hoot on the Hooch, Saturday, April 11, 2026.



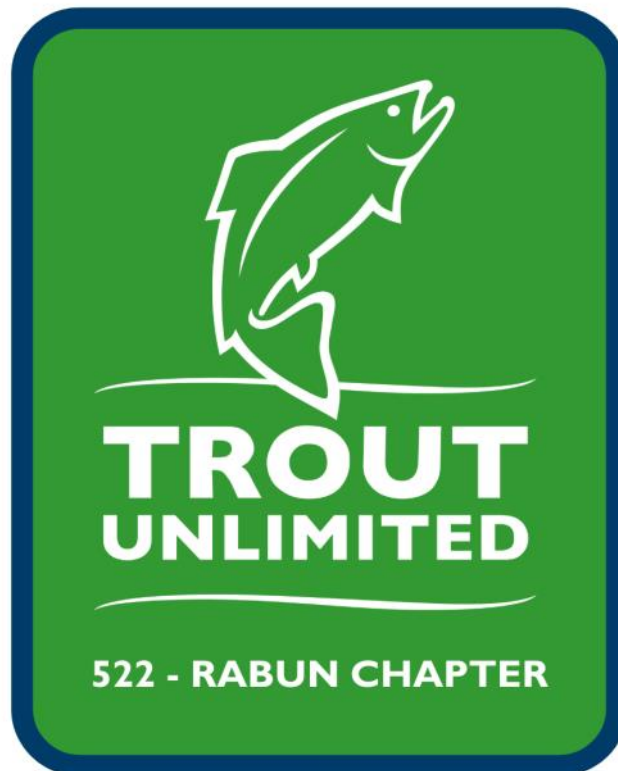
## **Rabun Chapter Membership Update**

Welcome new members this month! Thomas Vaughan from Rabun Gap, GA; Leah Watts from Hartwell, GA; and Jason Deloach from Valdosta, GA.

Current Chapter membership: 130 adult members and 1 youth member.

**You are Invited to Join Trout Unlimited!**

Click here [tu.org/join522](https://tu.org/join522) or scan the QR code below:



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



## December Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies</u>
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

### Pat's Rubber Legs

HOOK: # 12 2X NYMPH

THREAD: MATCH CHENILLE

BODY: MEDIUM CHENILLE (YOUR CHOICE)

LEGS: MEDIUM RUBBER LEGS

BODY: YOUR CHOICE CHENILLE



GREAT FLY TO USE ON THE DELAYED HARVEST STREAMS.

*See you on The River! Terry*

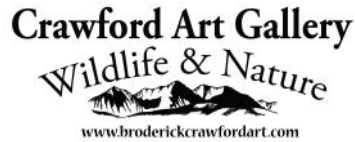
## Winter Troutng Tips

[Winter Troutng Tips – The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#)

## More Winter Troutng Tips

[More Winter Troutng Tips – The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#)

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/rabuntu)

Follow us on Instagram at @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 either [Jeff Durniak](#) or [Tammy Hopton](#).

To send an email directly to the Chapter President, use [rabunchapterprez@gmail.com](mailto: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**

It's the busiest time of year! Yes, December flies by so quickly. And before you know it, the Rendezvous will be here!

I hope you are able to take some time to enjoy this time of year. The way I look at it, we have already had wonderful blessings this season. Rain, cool weather and stocking trucks have given us plenty of trout and great water conditions at the Delayed Harvest section of the Chattooga River!!

It is also time to gather donations for the Rendezvous bucket raffles and silent auctions. You can do this by asking a business you frequent if they would donate gift certificates, services or items to our biggest fundraiser of the year. A little work ahead of the Rendezvous will make a big difference for our Chapter.

One more thing to consider is that we are already making plans for 2026. If you have suggestions for an event or activity that will advance our mission of education, conservation or advocacy please let me know.

Our yearly calendar of events is linked to our budget. And our fundraiser makes sure we have enough money to fund those events. So it all works together.

If you are interested in serving on the board of directors or as an officer, please let me know. We have upcoming vacancies and would love to have you join the leadership team!

I am looking forward to seeing you at our Christmas Dinner next Monday. Thanks to Jack Wintle for making this happen!

I wish you a joyful and bright Christmas season!

*Tammy Hopton, Prez*