

The mission of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited is to conserve, protect, and restore Northeast Georgia's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

# TIGHT LINES

## January 2026 Newsletter of the Rabun Chapter (522) Trout Unlimited

[CLICK HERE](#)  
to visit our website!



Now on Instagram!  
@rabunchaptertu

No Rabun Chapter Meeting in January.  
Instead, come join us at the

## 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Rabun Rendezvous!!

Saturday, February 7

Rabun County Civic Center,  
201 West Savannah Street, Clayton, GA

\$45 per adult, \$20 per youth ages 5 through college

Doors open at 4:30 pm; Bluegrass music by The Foxfire Boys from 5:00-6:30; Dinner catered by Bluehound Barbeque starts at 6:30.

Great selection of bucket raffle and silent auction items!

See pages 3-6 for more information.

## Important Upcoming Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!

- **There will be no monthly Chapter Meeting in January.**
- **Tuesday, January 20. Monthly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting.** Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, Covered Bridge Shopping Center, 46 Plaza Way, Clayton, GA. Starts at 7:00 pm. Anyone can attend. Nominations for Chapter vacancies will be discussed. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, February 7. 39th Annual Rabun Rendezvous.** Doors open at 4:30 pm. Rabun County Civic Center, 201 West Savannah Street, Clayton, GA. See pages 3-6 or contact [Ray King](#) for more information.
- **Tuesday, February 17. Monthly Rabun Chapter Meeting.** Currahee Brewing, 93 West Savannah St, Clayton, GA. Social starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Program will be presented by James Miles, GAWRD Fisheries Biologist. Important: nominations will be taken on Chapter officer vacancies, with a vote to be taken in March. Contact [Tammy Hopton](#) 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.

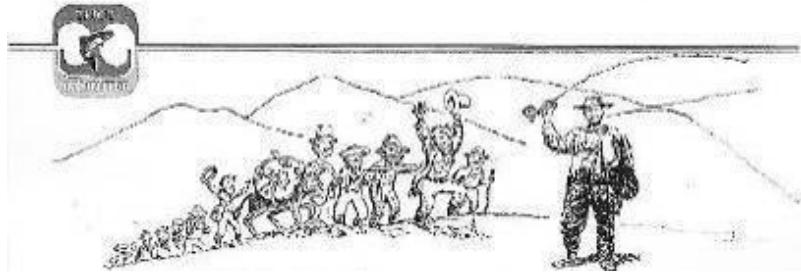
### Call for A Volunteer

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 for the past eight years. I have enjoyed it.

Pat Hopton



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 4:30 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 barbecue meats and delicious vegetables and deserts, all made by [Blue Hound Barbecue](#), 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.

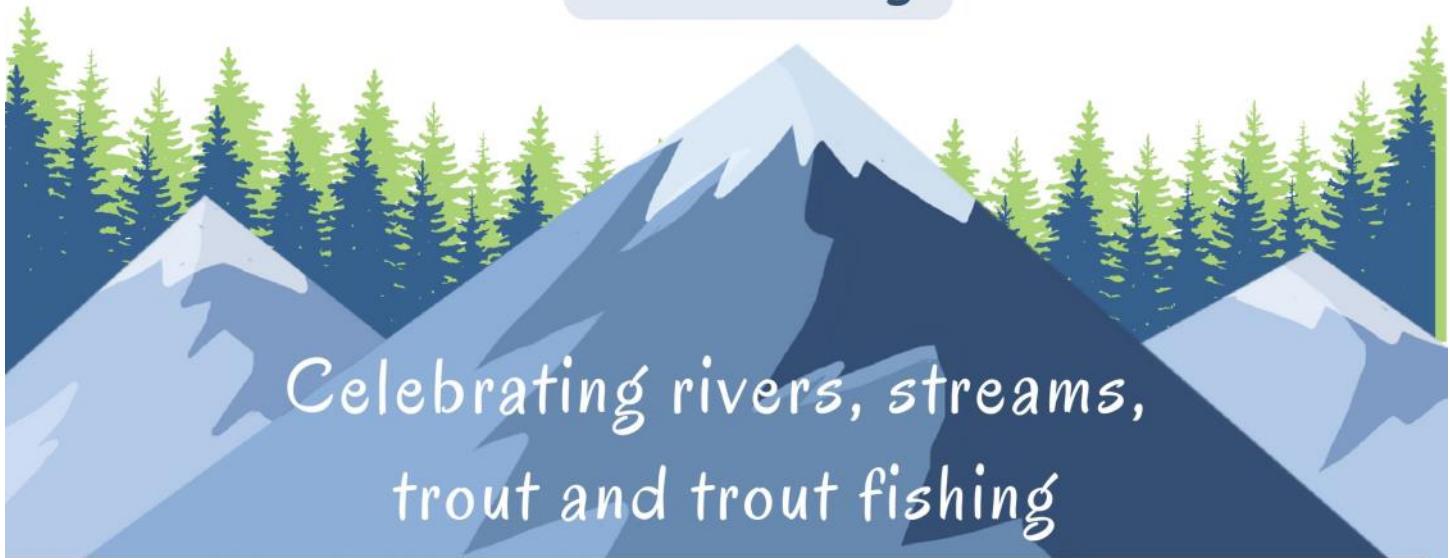


# Rabun Rendezvous

39th  
Annual

**Saturday, February 7, 2026**  
**Rabun County Civic Center**  
**201 W. Savannah St., Clayton**

**Get your tickets online and  
save money!**



Doors open 4:30 PM  
Dinner, music, and  
silent auction following

\$45 per person  
\$20 ages 6-college



More info at [rabuntu.org](http://rabuntu.org)



## **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



## Way to Go Laurel!

Laurel Smith (TFS Class of '20) of Clayton, Georgia, is making a meaningful impact in fisheries conservation. After earning her B.S. in Forestry Resources from the University of Georgia in 2025, Laurel spent recent months working with the National Park Service's Native Fisheries Conservation Crew at Yellowstone National Park. Alongside fisheries biologists, she helped collect critical population estimates, biological samples, and environmental data to support conservation plans for Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Arctic Grayling.

In addition to working with native trout species, she also worked with invasive species through the lake trout suppression program at Yellowstone Lake. This suppression program is essential for restoring the Yellowstone Cutthroat, a keystone species, which has had a cascading positive effect on the overall ecosystem. She intends to return next season to continue this research and hopes to work towards a Master of Fisheries Biology degree.

Read more about Laurel's journey:

<https://www.tallulahfalls.org/.../alumni-success-story...>



## Past Rabun Chapter Presidents

1986-1988	Doug Adams
1989-1990	Jim Nixon
1991-1992	Doug Adams
1993	Kyle Burrell
1994	Jim Kidd
1995-1996	Tom Landreth
1997-1998	Russ Berken
1999-2000	Terry Seehorn
2001-2003	Charlie Breithaupt
2004-2005	Ray Kearns
2006-2007	Terry Rivers
2008-2009	Jimmy Whiten
2010-2011	Larry Walker
2012-2014	Pat Hopton
2015-2016	Steve Perry
2017-2019	Kent Wilson
2020-2022	Jeff Durniak
2023-present	Tammy Hopton

### Won't you Step Up?

There are plenty of opportunities for you to serve in the Rabun Chapter! We are currently seeking nominations for the following Officers: President, Vice President, and Board of Director. Also for the following leaders: Tightlines Editor, Secretary, Treasurer, Conservation Chairperson, Membership Director, and others. Please contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.

Let's keep our Chapter active and growing!

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

*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.

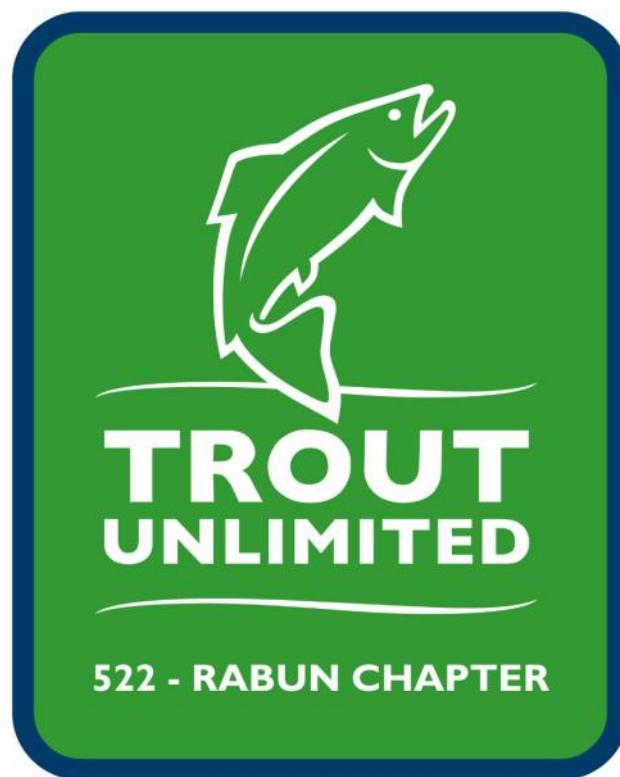
## Rabun Chapter Membership Update

No new members this month.

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

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

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



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



## January 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

#### Bead Head Prince Nymph

HOOK: # 12/16 2X NYMPH

TAIL: BROWN GOOSE BIOTS

BODY: PEACOCOK HERL PALMER W/ GOLD TINSEL

THORAX: PEACOCK HERL

WING CASE: WHITE GOOSE BIOTS

LEGS: BROWN HACKLE

HEAD: BRASS BEAD.



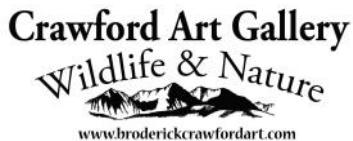
GREAT FLY YEAR ROUND. USE IT AS A DROPPER BEHIND A DRY FLY OR UNDER AN INDICATOR. FISH IT DEEP.

*See you on The River! Terry*

***"The two best times to fish is when it's rainin' and when it ain't"***

**Patrick F. McManus**

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

Follow us on Instagram at @rabunchaptertu

Check out our website at [www.rabuntu.org](https://www.rabuntu.org)

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

To send an email directly to the Chapter President, use [rabunchapterpres@gmail.com](mailto:rabunchapterpres@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](#)      Scouts Liaison  
[Pat Hopton](#)      Tight Lines Editor  
[Pat Hopton](#)      Memorials

## Prez Notes

Happy New Year! Don't you love having a clean slate? A new start? Pat and I have a tradition of writing our goals for the new year. They are not really hard and fast but rather efforts or changes we want to make in the new year. Some of course are abandoned half way through the year. Others are fulfilled even in the last days of the year.

Well, Trout Unlimited fiscal year starts April 1<sup>st</sup>. That will be our new start and a chance to review where we have been and what we want to accomplish in the future.

This new fiscal year, we will have new leadership and new goals for the future. I am one of several that will be stepping aside, but I am excited to see what happens next! I hope you are too!

Before we get there, we have some work to do and we need your help to make our new start successful.

First and most importantly, The Rendezvous! We need your donations and for you to show up with friends. Ray has the plan in place but please help by gathering donations and spreading the word!

If you are interested in becoming a part of the leadership, please let me know! We will have a ballot settled by February.

Hope you have a wonderful start to the new year!! See you on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Rendezvous!!

*Tammy Hopton, Prez*