



# TIGHT LINES

## March 2026 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](#)

### March, 2026 Rabun Chapter Meeting

**Tuesday, March 17**

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

Meeting starts at 6:30 pm, there will be no program speaker. Instead we will ‘Talk Trout’! We will relax, enjoy pizza and beverages, tell tall tales, and get to know each other again. This will be a fun, relaxing evening—please come join us!

#### *Nominations to be Voted On During March Meeting*

The Rabun Chapter Board of Directors respectfully submits the following slate of officers to fill upcoming vacancies on the Chapter Leadership roster. Any Chapter member may nominate any other qualified persons to these positions. A vote for these positions will occur at the March, 2026 Chapter meeting.

<u>Position</u>	<u>To Serve Through</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	March, 2028	Jeff Durniak
Vice President	March, 2028	Peter Croes
Director	March, 2030	Trey McFalls

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

- **Saturday, March 7. Annual Budget Planning Meeting.** Any Chapter member can attend. All Board members and committee chairpersons are highly encouraged to attend. 9:00 am Northeast GA Food Bank Community Room. Breakfast snacks will be provided. 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.
- **Tuesday, March 17. Monthly Rabun Chapter Meeting.** Currahee Brewery, Clayton, GA. We will gather starting at 6:30 pm. There will be no guest presentation. Instead we will relax and talk trout fishing, while enjoying pizza and your favorite beverage. A vote on Chapter vacancies will be held. See page 1 or contact [Tammy Hopton](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, April 11. Rabunite 101—An Introduction to Fly Fishing.** To be held at the Rabun County Recreation Center, Clayton, GA from 8:30 am—1:00 pm. \$25 per student. Contact [Charlie or Kathy Breithaupt](#) for more information or see page 6.
- **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.
- **Saturday, April 25. Spring Sweep.** Annual trash pickup along the Chattooga River, Chauga River, and other locations on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District, SC. Sponsored by the US Forest Service. Meet at the US Hwy 76 bridge at 9:00 am. See page 7 for more information.
- **Saturday, April 25. Blue Ridge Trout and Adventures Festival, aka Trout Fest .** Annual fund raising event for Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter, among others. To be held at Downtown City Park in historic Blue Ridge, GA. [CLICK HERE](#) or see page 9 for more information.
- **Wednesday, May 6—Saturday, May 9. Annual Rabun Chapter Spring 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.
- **Thursday, May 14. GA and SC Delayed Harvest Season Ends.**
- **Friday, June 5. NC Delayed Harvest Season Ends**

# **Report of the 39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RABUN RENDEZVOUS!**

## **From Ray King, Rabun Rendezvous Chair**

### **Summary Results from the 39th Annual Rabun Rendezvous**

**Attendance: 156 Total (Adults - 123 and Youth – 31, Pre-School - 2)**

**Net Receipts: \$6,000.00+ (approximately, following expenses)**

### **Thanks to all who made the 2026 Rabun Rendezvous successful!**

The Rabun TU Chapter celebrated our 39th Annual Rabun Rendezvous this year! Weather was very cooperative which resulted in a comfortable day for the 7<sup>th</sup> of February. We were blessed by missing storms the previous two weekends.

Special thanks go to Blue Hound Barbecue for their great catering job (Becky Little, Kyle Bryner, Elijah Bryner and Daniel Bryner) and to Amanda Crane, Director, Rabun County Events & Venues, who coordinated the use of the Rabun County Civic Center. The Civic Center allowed us to be in one room this year, provided great sound for announcements and the music of The Foxfire Boys.

We saw several familiar faces and met new folks in attendance. We felt the presence of the missing, but not forgotten members, of our TU family in “Around the Bend.” We are indeed blessed to be part of a community who loves the outdoors.

Thanks to all who were able to attend the Rabun Rendezvous! Those of you who were not there, missed a great time and we hope to see you next year. Come be part of our community!

A special thank you is due to all the volunteers from the Rabun TU Chapter who donated their time and resources to make this year’s Rabun Rendezvous a success. They worked tirelessly to solicit great donations from our friends and businesses who support the TU efforts, participated in the event set-up, and worked as runners in the Silent Auction and Bucket Raffles and staffed the Registration desk. Great support was provided by our college students of Five Rivers Chapters, from University of Georgia, Georgia Tech University and Emory University. I cannot thank you enough!

A key to our success, in addition to our members and friends, are the individuals, organizations and businesses who made donations to this year’s Rabun Rendezvous. A fantastic slate of donated items: fishing gear; crafts; artwork; custom wood working; gift certificates to restaurants, golf courses, and salons; clothing, and cash donations. We offer our thanks for your assistance both in advertising and financial support of the Rendezvous.

## **Rabun Rendezvous Donor List:**

The Doug Adams estate; The Adams Family - Brooks, Amanda, Avril and Calder Adams; Amanda Crane, Director, Rabun county Events and Venues (Clayton, GA); Alley's Ol' Store (Lakemont, GA); Alpharetta Outdoors (Alpharetta, GA); Alpine Bakery (Alpharetta, GA); Amrine Equipment & Rentals (Clayton, GA); Mack Martin (Atlanta Fly Fishing School); Kathy Blount; Blue Hound Barbecue (Dillard, GA); Fritz and Lynda Bertz; Kathy and Charlie Breithaupt; The Big Green Egg, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) – Special thanks to Maria Rodeghiero; Black Rock Buddies Group (Black Rock State Park, Mountain City, GA); Brookings Fly Shop (Cashiers, NC, Owner – Matt Canter); Barbara Cantrell; Clarkesville Lanes (Clarkesville, GA); Cool River Adventures (Helen, GA); Cohutta Chapter TU (Larry Vigil); Michele and Broderick Crawford; Peter Croes; Dairy Queen (Clayton, GA); Jeff and Karen Durniak; Duvall's Car Wash (Clayton, GA); Justin English; Fish Tales Outfitters & Guide Service (Franklin, NC, Ernie King); The FoxFire Boys (Wayne Gipson, Mike Hamilton, Steve McCall, Tom Nixon, Dean English, Filmer Kilby), Gene Hansard; Mike Fuller; Highlands Hiker (Chris Wilkes – General Manager); Hillside Orchard Farms (Tiger, GA); The Home Depot (Clayton, GA, Cole Butler - Manager); Tammy and Pat Hopton; Steve Hudson; Sam Johnson (Goldrush Chapter TU); Ken Kellerman; Ray King; LaCabana Restaurante (Clayton, GA); Holly and Derek Maddox; Mane Design (Dillard, GA); Mama G's (Clayton, GA); Manrique's Mexican Restaurant (Clayton, GA); Matt Henderson; Member of Oconee Chapter TU (Anonymous Donor); Mike Fuller; Rick O'Hara; O'Reilly Auto Parts (Clayton, GA); Outdoor 76 (Clayton, GA); Susan and Frank Patton; Rabun Chapter of TU; RAIN Bottling Company (Clayton, GA); Reeves Building Supply, Corey Page - (Clayton, GA); Reeves Hardware (Dillard, GA, Vaughan Rogers, Manager); Reeves Outdoors, Jeff Houston and Lewis Reeves – (Clayton, GA); Terry Rivers, River Through Atlanta Guide Service (Chris Scalley – Owner); The Rusty Bike Café (Clayton, GA); David Ruth; Salon 259 (Clayton, GA); Savannah River Chapter TU – Jimmy Miller; Shady Creek Expeditions (Trey McFalls, Clayton, GA); Sky Valley Country Club (Ryan DeBois, General Manager); Smithgall Woods State Park (Steven Emery, GM); Sunday Diner (Clayton, GA); Tallulah's 1882 Tea House (Tallulah Falls, GA); Frank and Gail Tolbert; Unicoi Outfitters (Jake Darling and Jimmy Harris, Helen, GA); Tom West; and Jack Wintle.

Thank you, Donors! We appreciate your support of Rabun TU!

***All donations to Rabun TU (a Federal Tax Exempt 501(c)3 non-profit) are tax deductible.***

WAAHOOO for our 39th Annual Rabun Rendezvous! Hope to see you on the water!

Tight Lines, everybody!

Ray King, Rabun Rendezvous Chair

# Scenes from the 39th Annual Rabun Rendezvous





# FLY-FISHING SEMINAR

[www.rabuntu.org](http://www.rabuntu.org)

- *Ever wanted to try your hand at fly-fishing for trout but never learned the in's and out's of it?*
- *Ever wonder why some people seem to get so "hooked" on it?*

Now's your chance! The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited is planning a half-day fly-fishing seminar for adults (male and female 16 years and older). The seminar will cover equipment, casting, knots and entomology (the bugs we imitate for fish to eat).

Instructors include local experts for a hands-on learning experience that will be helpful and fun.

**WHAT: Beginning Fly-Fishing Seminar "Rabunite 101"**

**WHEN: Saturday - April 11, 2026 8:30 am until 1:00 pm**

**WHERE: The Rabun County Recreation Center Upper Gym.  
On highway 441 near Rabun County Middle & High School complex.**

**HOW MUCH? Cost is only \$25**

**WANT TO SIGN UP??? FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!  
The session is limited to 28 participants.**

**Register with the QR Code**



If you have any questions, contact Charlie and Kathy Breithaupt at the email address or numbers below.

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Attn: Charlie and Kathy Breithaupt  
[knc615@windstream.net](mailto:knc615@windstream.net)  
(706) 782-6954 (house phone)  
(706) 244-4495 (Cell)



**SUMTER**  
National Forest

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE  
ANNUAL CHATTOOGA RIVER**

# **SPRING SWEEP**

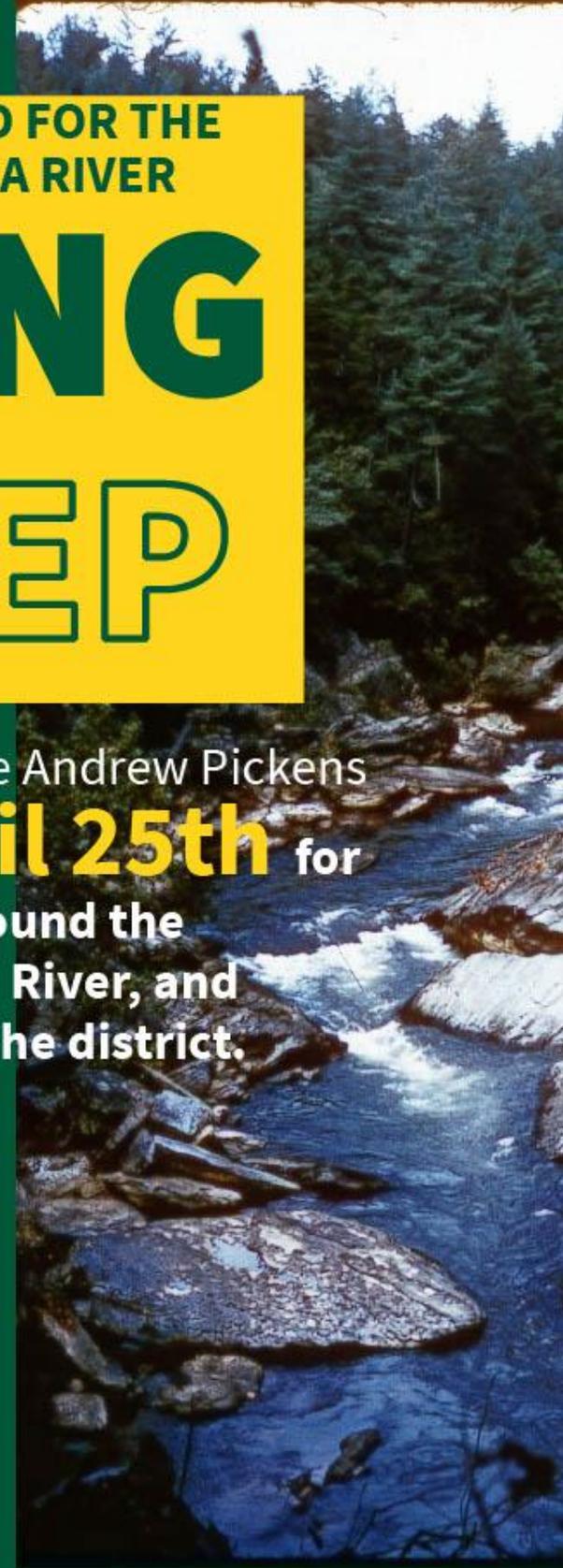
All are welcome to join the Andrew Pickens  
Ranger District on **April 25th** for  
a trash pick-up event around the  
**Chattooga River, Chauga River, and  
Other locations around the district.**

## **WANT TO JOIN?**

Meet at the *Hwy 76 Chattooga River  
Access Parking Lot at 9 am!*

You will be assigned a trash pick-up  
location and given trash bags. Please  
bring gloves, water, sun protection,  
and a snack for the day. Everyone will  
meet back at Hwy 76 River Access  
Parking Lot at 2 pm.

The USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.



## 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.

Celebrate Trout Fishing in the Trout Capital of Georgia ...

**9th Annual**

# Blue Ridge Trout & Outdoor Adventures Festival

10 am to 6 pm, April 25, 2026

Downtown City Park, Blue Ridge, Georgia



(01-09-26)



On April 25, 2026, 10 am to 6 pm, the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Blue Ridge Trout & Outdoor Adventures Festival returns to Blue Ridge, Georgia, and Fannin County – the *Official Trout Capital of Georgia*.

Fishermen, river sports enthusiasts and outdoor recreation fans and their families gather at Blue Ridge's downtown city park for recreational services, fun, food, activities, entertainment and shopping, while increasing the public's knowledge of trout and cold-water conservation associated with Trout Unlimited. Net proceeds of Trout Fest '26 support cold-water conservation, education, recreation and community awareness and outreach programs funded (in part) by the all-volunteer Blue Ridge Mountain Trout Unlimited #696.

Contact us:  
**Bob Borgwat**  
 Event coordinator  
 770-827-6657  
[info@blueridgetroutfest.com](mailto:info@blueridgetroutfest.com)  
[BlueRidgeTroutFest.com](http://BlueRidgeTroutFest.com)

Associated Event Partner




## MAKE IT AN ABOUT-TROUT WEEKEND!



**NEW! CATCH IT! ... ON FILM** – Blue Ridge Mountain Trout Unlimited and Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Association presents a selection of short films focused on local, cold-water environments – the fish, the fishing, the water and its secrets – of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Ticketed guests mingle from 5 to 7 pm, April 24, in the gallery while enjoying food, beverages, raffles and the camaraderie of the trout-fishing community, raising funds and building greater awareness for local cold-water resources. More info at [BlueRidgeTroutFest.com](http://BlueRidgeTroutFest.com).

## TROUT FEST '26!

**CAST-PADDLE-HIKE-CAMP-GOLF-RIDE-ART-LIVE MUSIC-CRAFT BEER-FOOD**

More than 4,000 visitors ... and the selection of exhibitors keeps growing!



**MORE THAN 130 EXHIBITOR SITES** present fishing gear/accessories, wildlife art/jewelry, outfitter apparel/gear, outdoor cooking, guided fishing services, and much more!

**Trout Fest Activity Zone opens up a world of outdoor fun ...** fly-casting, mountain biking, golf games, trout pond, crosscutting, gem mining and more!




**TROUT FEST '26 TAGGED-TROUT FISHING DERBY**

March 27-April 25  
 Cash, awards & sponsored prizes.  
 More information  
[BlueRidgeTroutFest.com](http://BlueRidgeTroutFest.com)

Scan image to learn more




**Trout Fest Program Tents ...** Professionals reveal local trout fishing, mountain biking, hiking, paddling and more in Fannin County -- *the Trout Capital of Georgia*.

**Trout Fest Food Court** features new and returning vendors, and our Beer/Wine Garden will feature brews from Grumpy Old Men Brewing Company.

## AND TROUT FEST '26 PRESENTS IN CONCERT!



## ... FINISH THE FUN WITH A 5K RUN!



**THE TROUT TROT 5K ...** Enjoy a run or a walk on the picturesque course that takes you 3.1 miles through 2 states and the charming downtowns of McCaysville, GA and Copperhill, TN.

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 26 @ 6:30 PM  
**WHAT:** 3.1 Miles, all paved (view more at [MapMyRun](http://MapMyRun))  
**MORE INFO:** [TROUTTROT5K.COM](http://TROUTTROT5K.COM)

**TROUT FEST '25 PRESENTING PARTNERS**



**The Ever-Best Festival Sponsorship Team**



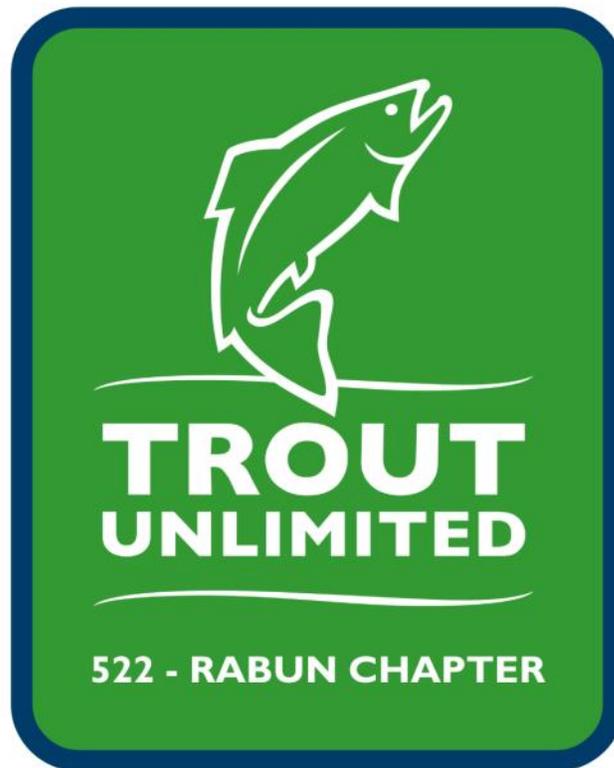
## **Rabun Chapter Membership Update**

No new members this month.

Current Chapter membership: 125 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!**



## March Hatch Chart

<u>The Bugs</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Flies .</u>
Early Black Stonefly	All month	Late am to Mid pm	18-20 Black Elk Hair Caddis or Griffiths Gnat 16-18 Black Stone Nymph or Pheasant Tail Nymph
Small Dun Caddis (Important)	All month	Late am to Mid pm	18 Brown Elk Hair Caddis 18 Hairs Ear Nymph
Cream Caddis (Important)	Late month	Mid day to Late pm	12-14 Cream Elk Hair Caddis 12-14 Dark Cream Caddis Pupa
Quill Gordon (Important)	Late month	Late am to Mid pm	12-14 Quill Gordon 12 Quill Gordon Nymph
Red Quill aka Hendrickson	Mid-Late month	Mid day to Late pm	14-16 Red Quill or Hendrickson 14-16 Pheasant Tail Nymph
March Brown (Very Important)	Mid-Late month	L am to Mid pm	12-14 March Brown or Adams Parachute 10-14 Dark Hares Ear or Pheasant Tail Nymph
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

## Fly of the Month

By Terry Rivers

### March Brown

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

**TAIL: Brown Hackle Fibers**

**BODY: Brown Goose Biots**

**THORAX: Brown Rabbit Dubbing**

**PARACHUTE: Antron or Calf Tail**

**HACKLE: Brown**



**Spring is approaching fast! Watch for March Brown mayflies to hatch sporadically during warm, sunny days. Remember: you have to be there to see it!**

***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](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

My last Prez Notes! I have been truly honored to be your president of the Rabun Chapter for the last three years. It has been challenging at times but always rewarding. Allow me to look back and also look forward in my last issue of Prez Notes.

Like so much in society, Covid changed our chapter. Lots of new people moved into our area and joined the Chapter. We also had many folks drop out of the Chapter, through death or other reasons. The makeup of our Chapter membership is different now; not worse, likely better, but just different. And it's not just our Chapter, our whole town has changed. You can debate if the changes are for the better or worse, but I am grateful for all the new faces in our Chapter. You have brought new ideas and viewpoints and we are stronger for it.

We had to change our meeting location due to construction at the Rabun Gap church. We tried several new places, but everyone seems to really like meeting at Currahee Brewery.

We continued to have fun! We kept up our favorite activities: Rabunite 101 (thanks Charlie and Kathy!), Rendezvous (way to go, Ray!!), Hotdogs by the River (again, thanks C & K!) and our Family Picnic. After listening to feedback from our members we decided to have some of our meeting programs to focus on activities such as fly tying and fly casting. We also had an excellent cast of speakers at our Chapter meetings, with speakers and topics both entertaining and informative. Good job, Jeff!

I am especially proud of the conservation work that we accomplished during my tenure. We continued and strengthened our partnerships with the USFS and GA DNR. We created a Reed Creek Watershed Monitoring Project. Work has been done controlling erosion into Reed Creek and the Chattooga River through dispersed campsite rehabilitation, reducing off-road ATV use, maintenance of the Burrells Ford Road, and litter pickup. After much work with Leon Brotherton at the GA DNR and David Vinson at the US Forest Service we now have the ability to perform stream improvement work on our own—without direct government oversight! - by building Chevron stream structures. We did our first such project on Sarah's Creek using both Chapter folks and partnering with the GA Tech 5 Rivers Club.

April 1<sup>st</sup> will be the beginning of a new fiscal year and changes in our leadership. The ballot for new officers are as follows: Jeff Durniak for President (to replace me), Peter Croes for Vice-President (vice Trey McFalls) and Trey McFalls for Board of Director, (vice Mike Anderson). We will vote on this ballot on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Brewery.

We can all support our new team by showing up, volunteering and being willing to help in leadership positions. Please join me in supporting our new leadership team. I believe we have had a good three years, but I also believe the best is yet to come!

There's much more I could say, but... I think I'll go fishing instead. See you on The River!

*Tammy Hopton, Prez*