

Presented by ...



The Blue Ridge Trout Fest & Outdoors Adventures and the Trout Capital of Georgia

About Blue Ridge Mountain Trout Unlimited Chapter 696

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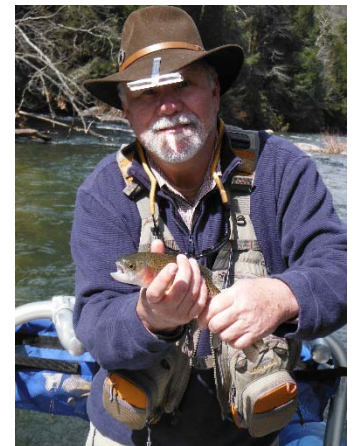
This spring, the second Blue Ridge Trout Festival & Outdoor Adventures event celebrates the Trout Capital of Georgia from the epicenter of Fannin County. The event – the Official Trout Festival of Georgia – gathers fishermen, river sports enthusiasts, and allied outdoor recreation fans and their families to Blue Ridge for fun, education, food, entertainment and services while increasing the public's knowledge of trout and the conservation ethos associated with Trout Unlimited.

By resolution in 2005 of the Georgia Legislature, Fannin County was named the Trout Capital of Georgia. In 2016, state lawmakers further resolved to designate the Blue Ridge Trout Festival and Outdoor Adventures event as the Official Trout Festival of Georgia, a public event that benefits local cold-water environments supported by the conservation, education and outreach programs of Blue Ridge Mountain Trout Unlimited Chapter 696.

The Festival celebrates trout fishing in the Toccoa River watershed –as close as the city limits of Blue Ridge and stretching deep into the draws and valleys of the Chattahoochee National Forest. According to *Georgia Outdoor News*, trout fishermen throughout the Southeast recognize the Toccoa River and its tributaries -- both above Lake Blue Ridge and along the tailwater downstream from Blue Ridge Dam -- as serious trout water. For almost 50 miles, the Toccoa flows south to north, heading up in western Union County before bisecting Fannin County. Along its way, the river collects many high-elevation creeks and streams that support wild populations of rainbow and brown trout, as well as the indigenous brook trout.

From creek creeping, open-water wading and float-fishing in drift boats, Fannin County trout anglers pursue stocked and wild rainbow, brown and brook trout on both public and private waters where trout fishing at all levels can be found for the expert or the novice angler alike.

Selected waters in the county are supplemented annually with stocked rainbow, brown and brook trout by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The agencies combine their expertise on the grounds of Chattahoochee National Fish Hatchery, located on Rock Creek in far southeast Fannin County. Through a memorandum of understanding, the agencies share the responsibility for stocking trout in some of the most scenic and productive trout streams in Georgia, including Noontootla Creek, Coopers Creek, Rock Creek and more.



BENEFITTING ...



Blue Ridge Mountain Trout Unlimited ... BRMTU is the official local chapter of the acclaimed national organization dedicated to cold-water fisheries. TU is dedicated to protecting critical habitat, reconnecting degraded waterways and restoring populations to cold-water fisheries. All funds raised or donated to BRMTU are applied right here in the North Georgia mountains for conservation and stream restoration efforts, stream cleanups like Rivers Alive, and education and outreach. Sponsored education and outreach programs include Trout in the Classroom in local schools, the Trout Adventure Trail, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts conservation education, Project Healing Waters for wounded veterans, Casting for Recovery for breast cancer survivors, Georgia Trout Camp, and Mercier Orchard Family Fishing Days.



Project Healing Waters ... Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc.™ is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly-fishing and associated activities including education and outings. In addition to year-round Project Healing Waters outreach to veterans at the Blairsville VA, Blue

Ridge Mountain Trout Unlimited hosts River*ence, an annual retreat for wounded veterans focused on healing through trout fishing and fellowship.



Trout Adventure Trail ... The Trout Adventure Trail® is a "do it yourself" and "plan your own" hiking and learning experience for kids of all ages along legendary trails in the Chattahoochee National Forest in North Georgia. The Trout Adventure Trail offers individual hikers, families and organized groups the opportunity to hike, learn and earn a distinctive commemorative award patch as recognition of the commitment to outdoor education, conservation and accomplishment. The Trail exists through a partnership between Blue Ridge Mountain Trout Unlimited and the United States Forest Service.

BLUE RIDGE TROUT FEST & OUTDOOR ADVENTURES is located in the heart of Blue Ridge, Georgia. Just 90 minutes north of Atlanta, and 60 minutes from Chattanooga, Blue Ridge features an historic district and downtown city park, flanked by shops for home/cabin decor, clothing, jewelry, gifts; galleries; craft breweries and fine restaurants; and the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway. Surrounded by the historic downtown district, the Festival stretches across City Park, bounded by Depot and Summit streets (north and south) and by West Main and East Main streets.

For information about sponsorships, vendor applications, event details and more, please visit the BRTF website at BlueRidgeTroutFest.com. Find us on Facebook.

ABOUT BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN TROUT UNLIMITED CHAPTER 696

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ABOUT FANNIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Blue Ridge, Georgia, is located 8 miles south of the North Carolina–Tennessee border line, only 1½ hours north of Atlanta via I-575- GA/Hwy 515, within easy reach of the best attractions the Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee mountains have to offer. The Fannin County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau is the place to visit to find out information about the entire Georgia Mountain region. Make sure your first stop on a vacation in Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains is at our new **Fannin County Chamber Visitor Center**, 152 Orvin Lance Drive, Blue Ridge 30513. For more information, please visit <http://www.BlueRidgeMountains.com>.

ABOUT BLUE RIDGE LODGING ASSOCIATION

The new Blue Ridge Lodging Association was established by a group of peers closely involved in the lodging and tourism industry in Blue Ridge, Georgia, formed to create an environment that promotes improved business relationships, opportunities to increase tourism, and a shared sense of accomplishment. Self-accountability and trust are the cornerstone of this establishment. Members of the Blue Ridge Lodging Association are required to follow certain guidelines to qualify. For more information, please visit StayInBlueRidge.com.

ABOUT SOUTHERN TROUT MAGAZINE

Southern Trout Magazine is an Alabama-based bimonthly publication devoted to fly-fishing for trout and smallmouth bass in the highlands of the South from Mason-Dixon Line to North Georgia. To learn more about the publication go to www.SouthernTrout.com.