

Next Meeting

When: August 28, 2008 at 7:00pm
(4th Thursday of the month)

Where: Monte Vista Baptist Church
1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd in Maryville.
The church has an entrance on the opposite side of Hwy 129 between the red light and the Co-op.

Program: Ian and Charity Rutter will be making a presentation on fly-fishing and Hazel Creek. Be sure to come on out to learn something and have a good time.

Upcoming Events

- September 2-6 ~ Lynn Camp Prong Restoration Prep Work - meet at Lynn Camp trailhead; call fisheries office for details 436-1254
- September 20-21 ~ Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample
- September 26 - 27 Large Stream Sample - Cataloochee Creek - Cataloochee church site Friday, USGS gauge station site Saturday - call fisheries office for meeting times & locations - 436-1254
- November 15-16 ~ Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample



Topics of Interest

TVA Coldwater and State Council Meeting

On Saturday 26 July, Rufus King and I attended the semi-annual TVA Coldwater Meeting in the morning, followed by a Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited meeting in the afternoon. A few notes from the meetings follow.

1. River system update. The Tennessee Valley remains in a drought. Rainfall totaled 66% of normal in 2007, while the percentage for 2008 currently stands at 76%.
2. Didymo (invasive freshwater algae). No significant changes to its status.
3. Clinch River slot limit. Too early to tell how it is doing (14"-20" protected length).
4. Cherokee National Forest stream samplings show less big fish. The ongoing drought, reported the TWRA representative, "hits rainbows hard."
5. Much discussion occurred on the off-highway vehicle (OHV) controversy in the Tellico River watershed. Suffice it to say that Trout Unlimited supports enforcing rules that would allow the river to flow free from OHV trail runoff. Read more on the Chapter's website at www.lrctu.org.
6. The Tennessee Department of Transportation granted an extension for the Trout Unlimited license plate to achieve the 1,000 plate threshold. The previous deadline was 30 Jun 08. The current total stands at 860 plates sold. Order your plate at www.tuplate.org.

Topics of Interest (continued)

TVA Coldwater and State Council Meeting

7. On a related license plate note, Rufus will serve on the committee to determine the distribution of funds associated with the license plate in the "out years" (year 2 and beyond).
8. Rufus and I got to report about Troutfest 2008 and the subsequent donations to the Park, as well as the big plans for Troutfest 2009.
9. I will serve as the leader of a State Council committee to explore the feasibility of conducting a Tennessee "trout camp" for youth.

Best Regards,

Jeff Hall - President

TU Plate Update

Updated 8/1/08 - The TU plate has gone into overtime! Good news is we've gotten an extension for the plate deadline beyond June 30, 2008. The bill became law on June 21, 2008 granting Trout Unlimited a time extension beyond our deadline to reach 1,000 TU plates presold.

We are currently at 860 plates with 140 left to presell before we can submit the 1,000 names of those who've believed in the TU plate and the benefits to fishery conservation in Tennessee. TU thanks you for your support.

Unwanted Species???

Brook Trout

History

Brook trout are native to eastern Canada and the United States as far south as northern Georgia. The species has been widely introduced into suitable and unsuitable habitat in the West. Dr. Peter Moyle of the University of California-Davis reported that brook trout were introduced into California as early as 1871. By the 1890s, there were being cultured in western states and were widely introduced.

Threat

Introductions of brook trout are often cited as one of the principal causes of decline of the threatened bull trout. Bull trout hybridize with brook trout and the rapid reproduction of the latter species often means that bull trout are mostly or completely eliminated where the two species occur. Although brook trout do not hybridize with redband and cutthroat trout, they compete with the native trout for food and habitat and often result in reduced numbers of the native species.

Management Implications

Brook trout are fall spawners and can survive in a relatively wide range of lake and stream conditions. In many western streams, brook trout grow slowly and reproduce rapidly, resulting in large populations of "stunted" fish. Although extreme, one California stream is known to produce 10-inch fish that are more than 20 years old. Because of impacts to native fishes, most states no longer stock brook trout in stream systems although they remain abundant in many western drainages. Removal efforts are occurring in many streams. For example, in Sun Creek in Oregon's Crater Lake National Park, biologists eliminate brook trout by chemicals and electrofishing in an effort to recover native bull trout.

On-Stream Report

Fishing in July and early August has been hot and muggy. I've managed to fish the South Holston three times since the last meeting. Once at night and twice during the day; once out of the boat and once wading.

The wade fishing was good but required a bit of hopping around from location to location in order to work around the generation schedule. It is worth spending the time looking over a map at different bridges and roads that parallel the river for possible access points. That way you can work around the generation. I use a basic rule of 1 hour for every four river miles to gauge when the water will reach a certain location on the river, however experience is the best. Some flies that produced well were the CDC Comparadun Sulphur, Split Back Sulphur and the Old Yellar.

Another night on the South Holston... you may have heard about us doing this before, but once again it proved successful. Doug, Ross and I hit the Soho the Friday night after the last TU meeting. We put the boat in at 11:00pm and floated until 5:30am Saturday morning. We threw streamers most of the night and boated a half dozen fish in the fourteen to eighteen inch range with one right at twenty inches. However the fish of the night was caught by Doug at 26 inches and was his largest Brown Trout to date. Overall it was a good night, not a bunch of fish but definitely some good memories.

On-Stream Report (continued)

On my most recent trip to the Soho, I fished with Clay Aalders of Smoky Mountain Gillies. We floated from the weir down to Weaver Pike Bridge. Fishing was decent with Sulphurs hatching from about eleven to three. Then around 3:30 I had the privilege of fishing in the worst rain storm I'd ever been in. It was literally falling in sheets of water. After the rain subsided we had to bail the drift boat a bit. During the rain storm we switched to small streamers and boated a couple of decent Browns.

The fishing should continue to get better on the tailwaters as we move in to fall. I've also been hearing good things from the Caney and the Holston continues to fish good up near the dam. Let's hope the Holston holds out this summer and we may be in for some fantastic fishing next spring!

The Orvis Anglers Club, Fly-of-the-Month for August is Rosenbauer's Parachute Beetle. Brett Romer will be doing a fly tying demonstration on Saturday August 16th from 10:30am to 12:30pm. Stop by have fun and share some fishing tales! These fly tying demonstrations are held on the third Saturday of every month.

Tightlines,

*Kris Maurer,
Orvis Fly Fishing Manager,
Orvis - Sevierville*

The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit volunteer organization that is committed to Protecting & Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

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**Thanks to all of you who
worked on Troutfest.
Great Job!**

And thanks for attending, supporting and donating to Troutfest. Together we have made a difference that we can all be proud of forever.

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