

LITTLE RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Editor
Mark Sebby



April 2008
www.lrctu.org

Next Meeting

When: April 24, 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: Rick Robins will give a presentation on "How to Rig Kayaks". He will bring a couple of his own to demonstrate his expertise. Rick has been a guide in Alaska and has gained saltwater experience from living in Florida. You can have a lot of fun fishing from a boat - kayaks are a great way to get you on the water and get you there quietly. You will certainly not want to miss this meeting! Please plan to join us!

Upcoming Events

- April 12: Little River Clean-Up
9AM - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area
- May 16: [TROUTFEST](#) Banquet @ 7PM
Dinner & Auction - festivities begin @ 6PM
- May 17-18: [TROUTFEST 2008](#) - Townsend

TU Tennessee License Plate

We start in April our final push towards 1,000 plates. At present, we have presold 540 plates for 54 % of our goal. For those waiting to order the plate, we need to have 1,000 presold plates by June 30, 2008. As you order your own plate, please consider giving the gift of conservation to others. www.tuplate.org



TROUTFEST 2008 Update

www.troutfest.org



TROUTFEST is an outdoor festival that is intended to be fun and entertainment for kids and adults of all ages. It is held May 17-18th at the Townsend Visitors Center. There is no charge to attend and parking is free at the Festival.

Banquet Tickets

Do not wait to get you TROUTFEST Banquet tickets. You can pick them up at Little River Outfitters or see Dan Calhoun (ph 579-5774). You can also get them at our meetings and events up to the day of the Banquet or order tickets on the TROUTFEST website.

The method you use choose to get your tickets is up you, but do not wait because of limited seating. The banquet will be held on Friday May 16th. This year's location is a large tent next to Little River Outfitters. This will give us more space and give more members a chance to enjoy the banquet. So hurry and buy your tickets before they are all gone.

Bamboo for Brookies

This year's fly rod will be a beautiful 6' 2pc 4wt with an extra tip. It is a darkly flamed, hand-planed bamboo rod with root-beer colored wraps, bright nickel silver ferrules & hardware, burlled walnut reel seat spacer, and a combination cork/rattan grip. It comes with a hexagonal hardwood rod tube and both are contained in a beautiful cherry & maple glass tapper for the bamboo rods. The Rod is on display at Little River Outfitters.

Fishing in the Smokies

Well, Spring fishing is finally here. The water levels in the Park are good and today the water temperature is 56 degrees. Bugs are hatching, anglers are angling and everyone has a smile on their face, including me. We had some cold spells in March that delayed the good fishing but that is all behind us. I'm glad and you are too.

Right now, we are seeing a lot of Blue Quills. But by the time you read this we will have more species of aquatic insects hatching. Someone saw a Yellow Sally Stonefly adult last week. I know that sounds odd but I saw them earlier than this last year... not a lot of them, just a few before dark.

As expected due to the drought, there are tons of small rainbows and the larger adults are not as abundant as usual in the lower elevations. They are there, just not in big numbers. We knew that from the sampling Steve and Matt did last fall. Thankfully, the brookies and browns are in good shape. The drought has shown tremendous improvement over last year so far. Let's hope it keeps it up.

Fishing in the high elevations streams should be good by the time you receive this newsletter. Warm nights and days are predicted through early April. There don't seem to be any big winter surprises like we had last April.

It's time for the Smallmouth fishing in the lower Little River to pick up. I know a lot of you fish for them and I'll be in there with you this Spring. The launch ramp at the Alcoa Water Department is going to be opened again, first time since 9/11. That will make more water available to those who float the river.

It's almost TROUTFEST time again. I've been drooling over the bamboo rod, tube and display case that Charlie, Doug and Roy have made as a fundraiser item. It is a 6' 4-weight and they have outdone themselves again. You can buy tickets here at the store or at TU meetings. You can see the rod here at the shop.

Have a great April.

Byron Begley @ Little River Outfitters, Townsend

On-Stream Report

Spring is officially here and I've caught my yearly cold. I've been down and out for the last week. Prior to being sick, we have been having luck on the tail-waters and have been taking advantage of the dry fly fishing in the Smokies.

After the last meeting I made it out on the Holston, below Cherokee Dam. We put the drift boat in at the launch and floated down to the first set of riffles. The fish were rising consistently to small cream midges. We tried some dries, but had no success. However the dry and droppers did the trick. The dropper of choice seemed to be a size 20 zebra midge in black or grey.

Look for the dry fly fishing to continue to pick up on the tail-waters; Caddis on the Holston, Sulphurs on the South Holston and my favorite, the Watauga Caddis hatch.

Smallmouth fishing on both the Little Pigeon and Little River should start to pick up. I think the Little Pigeon starts sooner than Little River. My favorite early season smallmouth fly is the Beck's Super Bugger. You know you're fishing it right when the lead eyes no longer have paint on them.

We've got a bunch of store activities coming up in May. Our annual Spring Orvis Days are going to be held May 1st thru May 11th. May 3rd will be the big day as we are once again doing our trout stocking. We are also planning an on stream Kayak and Pontoon boat demo, as well as having live Bluegrass from 1pm to 3pm. There will also be plenty of seminars from myself and local guides. Please feel free to call the store (865) 774-4162 or check it out online at www.orvis.com/sevierville.

Volunteers Wanted! We are also looking for 3 volunteers for Saturday May 3rd and Sunday May 4th to work as on-stream fishing staff. Each volunteer will receive a loaded Montana Morning Lanyard! Please call the store and ask for Kris.

Kris Maurer @ Orvis, Sevierville, TN



GET TO KNOW DIDYMO !

An exotic plant called "Didymo" (*Didymosphenia geminata*) has invaded this river. This colonial algae forms brown mats with white streamers that can look like toilet paper. Didymo is bad news. At times it can densely cover miles of river, making it difficult to fish. It can also smother the bugs that trout and other fish need to eat.

At this time, nothing can be done to remove Didymo from this river. Didymo can spread to new waters on any item(s) that came in contact with Didymo infested waters, including fishing gear (especially felt wading boots), watercraft, and even people or pets. Didymo is difficult to kill and can live for weeks out of the water if it remains damp. You can prevent its spread to other waters by thoroughly cleaning your gear before entering new waters.

Clean your wading or boating gear as follows:

- 1) Remove any obvious clumps of algae from wading boots and other gear as you leave the river.
- 2) Kill Didymo – choose a method that will not harm your equipment
 - a. Allow all items that came in contact with the water to completely dry then keep them dry for another 48 hours, or
 - b. Soak items for one minute in a 2% bleach solution (1 cup of bleach mixed with 3 gallons of water) or a 5% solution of salt, antiseptic hand cleaner or dishwashing detergent (2.5 cups mixed with 3 gallons of water). Scrub or spray larger items such as watercraft, with the same solution ensuring surface contact for at least one minute.

People or pets should be washed using soap or shampoo.

TU TV Guide

On The Rise Now On TV

TU's new television show, *On the Rise*, begins airing on cable's Outdoor Channel on Fridays at 8 p.m. It is also shown on Saturdays at 2 p.m. and Sundays at 7:30 a.m. It's hosted by fly-fishing guide Frank Smethurst who takes his trout-skinned Airstream trailer across the country, searching for big fish in rivers where TU's efforts have made a difference.



Editor's Note

Apparently it is once again time to contact those in Nashville whom are supposed to be representing us. I do not know all of the details, but this is from the Chattanooga.com

Sportsmen Take Aim at Bill to Abolish TWRA "Hopefully the bill won't go anywhere.... "

by Richard Simms www.chattanooga.com
posted March 6, 2008

Sportsman across the state of Tennessee are taking aim at what has been called "an ill-conceived, ridiculous bill" that would abolish the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

In summary, House Bill 2856 "creates the division of wildlife resources within the Tennessee department of environment and conservation, abolishes the Tennessee wildlife resources agency, (TWRA) and transfers all duties, responsibilities, and functions of the TWRA to the division of wildlife resources (under the Dept. of Environment and Conservation)."

The bill designates that funds from hunting and fishing licenses would go to Tennessee's general fund rather than being designated specifically for funding wildlife and fisheries programs.

Go to www.tnwf.org to learn more about the coalition, including access to a "Legislative Action Center" where you can find and contact your legislative representatives and share your opposition, or support, for the bill.

Send newsletter suggestion to msebby@charter.net.

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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