

Next Meeting

When: April 23, 2009

(4th Thursday of the month)

Where: Bass Pro Shop, Sevierville, TN (upstairs in the meeting room to the right of the shoe department)

Program: Rob Fightmaster will be our guest presenter. His topic will be "Experience Your Smokies. This program is administered through Friends of the Smokies. It is a field-based program providing an opportunity for participants to see first hand an inside look at Park issues. Come hear more about this terrific program.

Rob is an accomplished local guide and flyfishing lodge consultant with current projects including the Riveridge Lodge in Jefferson County on the Holston River and Westover Farms, located outside Steelville, MO. For more information, check out his website at www.fightmasterflyfishing.com.

Upcoming Events

Little River Clean-Up: Saturday, April 25th – 9 am Metcalf Bottoms picnic area.

TROUTFEST: May 15, 16 and 17

IMPORTANT NOTE: No meeting next month. Plan to join us June 25 at River Johns

Troutfest Push On

Our widely known and much expanded Troutfest '09 is just around the corner. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this great event. Learn casting and fly tying techniques from some of the best known names in the industry as they demonstrate their tricks of the trade throughout the weekend of May 15, 16, and 17. Several Chapter members have put in countless hours to elevate this year's Troutfest, so let's make this one of the most successful events. Bring your friends and neighbors... and your neighbors' friends... and enjoy this unmatched trout event. Tickets for the Friday night banquet are available on line at www.troutfest.org/, at the Sevierville Orvis store and at Little River Outfitters in Townsend. Not only does Saturday's banquet promise great food, but you'll get a chance to win or bid on any number of great prizes that have been donated over the last few weeks by outfitters and manufacturers.

Only 200 tickets will be distributed for the Mike Bonfert bamboo rod raffle. This beautiful functional piece of art is offered as a door prize with a chance to win with each \$25 donation.

Advance tickets are available from:

Charlie Downs (859) 327-2565

vallerhammer@aol.com

Joe Hatton (865) 567-0410

Little River Outfitters (877) 448-3474

Notes from your President

- Trout Unlimited's Southeastern Rally 2009 will be held at Hungry Mother State Park, VA from May 1-3. See www.tu.org/SE Rally2009 for further details.
- We are looking forward to Troutfest this year. Please make sure that you are a part of this most important event of our season.
- We have received some really great items for the Troutfest banquet and auction on May 15. If you have an item to donate please contact either Rufus B. King at 995-1146 or Mike Stiehl at 681-1605. We would like to have all items identified by May 4th. Thanks to all who have helped get these items.

-Rufus King



"Bamboo for Brookies" Custom Bamboo Fly Rod

Ed's notes:

Greeting to all light tackle fishing enthusiasts from the newly appointed editor of the LRTU Newsletter. I am pleased to be a part of this organization's well-noted efforts to promote and sustain fishing and fish habitats in our little corner of paradise. As a youth first introduced to trout fishing by my Dad on Reems Creek in Buncombe County, NC, I have "gone away" and come back twice to fly fishing.

The first return was as a teen after we moved to East Tennessee when my accomplices and I would skip school to fish the big horseshoe on Abrams Creek in the GSMNP. After a stint in the service, college, a 7-year stand in Kansas City as a publisher of trade magazines, my wife, two children and I returned home to the mountains. Living within a stone's throw of the Little River outside Maryville gave ample opportunity to fish again and, for the second time, gravitate to the fly rod. Now, when making the choice, I have to think of a reason to pick up the spinner instead of a fly rod. Guess I'm hooked.

Thanks to past editor Mark Sebby and all the effort he made to get me up to par. From past experience, I can say that this newsletter will only be as good as the contributing members make it. We have a few very dependable writers/contributors, but we can use more. Please don't hesitate to email, write or call me with news of a recent trip, a call for volunteers, technical information such as tying, casting or equipment tips or events other members would find interesting.

Dave Ezell
865-984-1508

Email: ezop@charter.net

Address: 1116 Hitch Rd., Maryville, TN 37804

P.S. Yes I confess that I am the comical "Utube" guy (eaze53) on Byron's Little River Outfitters web site message board who tried to stuff one of those fat 26" Cherokee stockers into a 15" net! I still regret showing my friend how to use the video option on his camera.

Orvis On-Stream Report

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

Man I love Spring! The fishing is has been good and the weather has been beautiful for the most part. The Dogwoods and Redbuds look amazing. Also our Spring Orvis Days are just around the corner and we have a bunch of activities and specials going on at the store.

We've been on the Watauga about once a week trying to catch the caddis hatch. The weather has kind of strung it out a bit more, but it should be in full swing by the time this newsletter comes out. Our guide friends in the J.C. area are almost booked up solid, but don't let that run you off from fishing up there. There is plenty of water to go around. We got into some sparse caddis hatches and they seemed to be coming off in a couple of different sizes from 14 to 18 and are a dark grey to almost black color. As far as nymphs go, soft hackled pheasant tails in 12 to 16 fished in tandem with a tungsten midge pattern. The hatch should continue to get better and progress upstream the next couple of weeks and the trout should still be keying in on caddis emergers as well as adults in the riffles.

Good reports from the Holston below Cherokee dam have been coming in as well. Brad Fielden, our other fly fishing associate fishes it quite a bit. He has been having good luck on soft hackle patterns as well as dry dropper rigs. I've also heard a few reports of caddis hatching and they should get better in the next couple of weeks as well.

Spring Orvis Days

Apr. 30th thru May 10th

Saturday, May 2nd

- 9:00am to 10:00am **Free Casting Lessons**
- 11:00am to 12:30pm **Tying Thunder Head and Tennessee Wulff**
- 1:30pm to 2:30pm **Fishing for Brookies by Clay Alders**
- 3:00pm to 4:00pm **Double Haul Clinic**

Sunday, May 3rd

- 9:00am to 10:00am **Free Casting Lessons**
- 11:00am to 12:30pm **Tying the George Nymph and Blackburn Tellico**
- 1:30pm to 2:30pm **Smallmouth Fishing with a Fly Rod**

Saturday, May 9th

- 9:00am to 10:00am **Free Casting Lessons**
- 11:00am to 12:30pm **Tying Holston River Dry Flies**
- 1:30pm to 2:30pm **How to Take better Fish Photos**
- 3:00pm to 4:00pm **Drift and Rollcast Clinic**

Sunday, May 10th

- 9:00am to 10:00am **Free Casting Lessons**
- 11:00am to 12:30pm **Tying Holston River Nymphs**

The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a Non-Profit Volunteer Organization that is Committed to Protecting and Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds In and Around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park



**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.

**Little River
Outfitters**

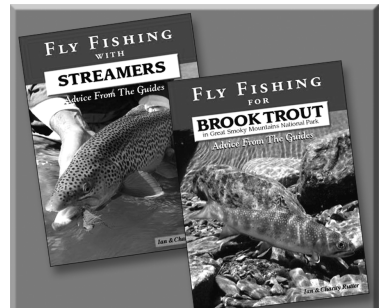
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