



My favorite part of catching a fish like this is letting it go." - Jen Merchant

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Some of you whose memory is better than mine (and you read the column!) may remember my rumination on diligence and good fortune. That euphemism pertained to my purchase of a trout spey rod and thrashing around on the Clinch River the first few attempts at fishing with that technique. To my good humor I can report that I fulfilled that rumination a couple of weeks ago fishing the Holston with a friend. While the Holston being wide and easily wadable at low or no flow may not be a "Spey Rod River" it was great for my continued pursuit of a decent cast with the equipment. I broke the ice with a couple of hookups with small rainbows that I got close to me but not to hand (another trick to learn with that long rod!). I was pretty happy with that success until... I did ditch on to a nice brown (14" or so which is not large by brown trout standards but chunky and a good fighter) and got it to hand— YESSSS! I found the release just as regarding for some reason (ala the thought above), a strange feeling to someone who likes to eat fish. But I think it maybe comes back to sports, sportsmanship, and respect for an opponent. Having played sports through small-college the respect gained for an opponent after a hard-played contest is special. I will remember the feel of that stocky guy in my hand not so much for his size but as the culmination of a struggle with a new skill and a worthy reward. (PS the picture above is obviously not that fish—no camera for the Holston—but an equally rewarding 8-9 incher from Cosby Creek).

I have included in this newsletter an announcement from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park concerning public hearings over proposed fee changes including a new parking fee that, if approved, will go into effect in 2023. While all other National Parks charge an entrance fee (and receive a significant portion of that fee to support that Park) the GSMNP cannot, by charter, do so. To gain necessary funds to support Park operations these fee changes are being proposed. I am certainly in favor—a \$40 annual parking fee is a pretty small nick in my budget in exchange for maintaining that national treasure on our doorstep. There are lots of happenings upcoming for the Chapter that are listed below as well as other opportunities for fishing and service. They are all discussed below in the Volunteer Opportunities section. Find something that you'd like to join!

Best Wishes For Tight Lines!
Steve Y

MEETING - THURSDAY, APRIL 28 @ BLUETICK TAVERN MARYVILLE
Social Hour starts @ 6:00, Business Meeting @ 7:00, program after

Jim Parks author of "Tails of the Smokies" will present: Strategies for catching large browns in the GSMNP
Jim has been fly fishing in the GSMNP for 44 years. During this time, he has spent thousands of hours chasing wild trout from North Carolina to Alaska. As a youth, he sought after all three species in all types of water in the Smokies and in the numerous tailwaters in the region. Over time, his focus became the challenge of landing the wily and elusive Smoky Mountain brown trout. He will share his experiences and the strategies he uses to find, approach, and hook up with large browns in the Park. Jim is also a regular contributor to Coastal Angler Magazine.

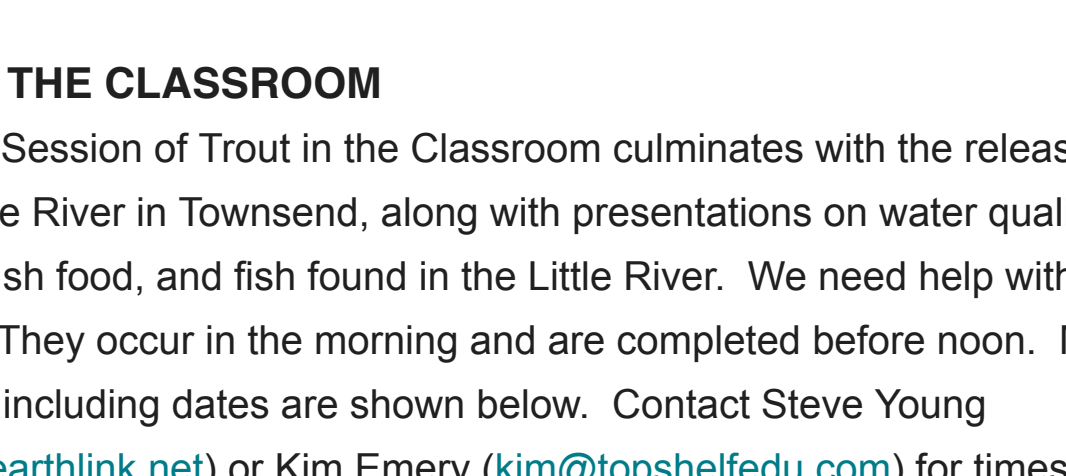
UPCOMING MEETINGS

- May 26 - Foothills Land Conservancy
- June - Trout Camp - no meeting but you sure can volunteer to help out any time June 20 through June 25! Let us know if you want to help.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN FISHERIES VOLUNTEER
Contact Richard Barnes (TN side of the Park) at canceler1@gmail.com or Mike Kesselring (NC side of the Park) at mikessel59@gmail.com for more information.

- May 21-22 - Bi-monthly acid deposition sample (NC & TN)
- June 21 - Rivercourse at Lake Logan on Big East Fork Pigeon River
- June 24 - Trout Camp electrofishing demo
- June 27-28 - Anthony Creek trout restoration evaluation

Waterfest with Keep Blount Beautiful / Little River Watershed Alliance
Saturday April 29 from 9:00 to 2:00



Need help manning a booth showing examples of what LRCTU does including some information on the Trout in Classroom Program and water quality monitoring in the park. Presentations are made to students and the public. If interested in helping, contact Steve Young (steve_v@earthlink.net).

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

The Spring Session of Trout in the Classroom culminates with the release of the Pan into the Little River in Townsend, along with presentations on water quality, stream insects as fish food, and fish found in the Little River. We need help with these programs. They occur in the morning and are completed before noon. More information including dates are shown below. Contact Steve Young (steve_v@earthlink.net) or Kim Emery (kim@topshelfedu.com) for times and location if interested.

- April 28 - Heritage High School 9th grade - 30 students
- May 4 - Episcopal School 4th grade - 33 students
- May 5 - Lenoir City Middle School 6th grade - 130 students
- May 10 - Lenoir City High School Science Class - 30 students
- May 11 - John Sevier Elementary 3rd grade - 22 students
- May 12 - Porter Elementary 4th grade - 68 students
- May 17 - Concord Christian School Science Class - 30 students
- May 18 - Eagleton Middle School 6th grade - 140 students
- May 19 - Townsend Elementary 3rd grade - 25 students
- June 7 - Clayton Bradley Academy 2nd grade - 14 students

LRCTU WEBSITE UPDATE

For those of you that haven't been at a meeting lately, our new Webmaster is Gary Pickens. He is looking to explore an update to the look and feel of our Chapter's website! So that we can include the functionality or features that our members and community find the most valuable, we welcome your feedback. Ideas and submissions are best received through email at lrcu644@gmail.com. The goal will be to retain the historical information (e.g. past newsletters) and links to other resources so that the website continues to be a knowledge repository for trout fishing in the local area. Migration to a new website will be a deliberate effort to avoid loss of data or disruption to the current site, so migration timelines will be stated well in advance.

LRCTU SPRING CAMPING TRIP - MAY 13 -15

We'll be camping at Roan Mountain State Park. The Doe River runs through the campground and Laurel Fork Creek is a short drive away. Check in at the Group Camping site is Friday, May 13 after 1:00 pm. Friday night dinner is on your own. Saturday night dinner is a group affair with LRCTU providing burgers and hotdogs. Campers should bring a dish to share for Saturday night, any water and drinks they need for the weekend and wood for the campfire. Campfire wood must be heat treated wood or can be collected inside the Park. If interested, contact Larry Davis at ledavis97@gmail.com. THEY HAVE HOT SHOWERS!!!!

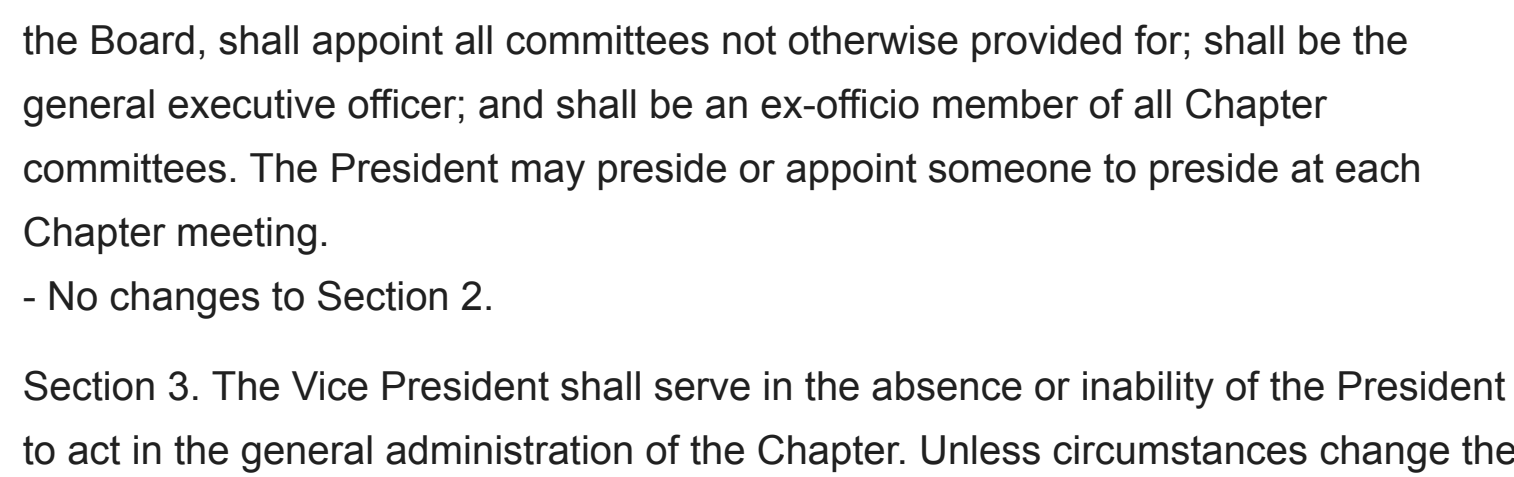
TIE AND LIE - MONDAY, APRIL 25 @CASUAL PINT, MARYVILLE - 6:30 - ?

This month's feature for Tie and Lie night is the Thunderhead. For beginners, this may look a little daunting. Don't let that stop you from coming by!
The Thunderhead is a dry fly pattern developed to meet the fishing conditions often encountered in the Southern Appalachian Mountain region, and specifically the Smoky Mountains. Generally attributed to Fred Hall of Bryson City, North Carolina, the pattern most likely is named for either the Thunderhead Prong of the Middle Fork of the Little River, or Thunderhead Mountain that overlooks that stream. Both of those are on the Tennessee side of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Thunderhead is an attractor-style fly. Basically, Hall improved upon the classic Adams pattern by adding a bushy, kip-tail wing, in the fashion originated by Lee Wulff. This created a very visible and buoyant fly that is well suited for fishing in the shadows and rough-and-tumble, freestone waters of the southeast.
Though it mimics no specific forage, it most closely resembles a mayfly dun. Regardless, it has proven to be a fish catcher throughout the southland. It even can be successfully fished in size 12 on small streams in the region. That's probably because it has such an appealing, "buggy" look that trout in those small places simply can't afford to let such a tempting morsel just float past.

Please bring the materials listed in the recipe below. For beginners that don't have supplies or tools, let us know at lrcu.newsletter@gmail.com so extra supplies and tools will be available.

- Hook: Size 12 1x long
- Thread: Black 8/0
- Tail: Deer hair
- Body: Grey dubbing (medium)
- Wing: White calf tail
- Hackle: Brown cock



NEW MEMBERS as of the 15th of the prior month
Bill Mc Adams Bradley Hearn. Jeremy Myers Rick Ballew

Welcome to the Little River Chapter of TU. Our Chapter was established years ago as a nonprofit volunteer organization committed to protecting and restoring cold water resources and watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We hope to be able to offer you plenty of activities to join us in our mission. As a member you will receive our monthly digital newsletter issued around the 15th of each month. In addition, you will also receive email notifications of any activities that may be happening during the month. As you can see above, our live meeting is the 4th Thursday of each month, held at the Bluetick Tavern in Maryville. Social hour starts at 6:00 with chapter business and the month's program starting at 7:00. Feel free to visit our website at lrcu.org or contact any of the Board Members for information.

We welcome you once again to our Chapter and hope your contribution will help greatly in the success of our Chapter. Feel free to contact me at lrcu.newsletter@gmail.com for any information you need.

LITTLE RIVER CHAPTER BY-LAWS

Ernie Frey has agreed to review the Chapter's by-laws and to present his findings to the Board for their approval. One or two Articles of the By-laws will be presented in each month's newsletter for the Chapter Membership to review. If you wish to make any comments, please forward them to lrcu.newsletter@gmail.com.

- Article III
- Officers and Duties
- Section 1. The executive officers of this organization shall be: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, all of whom shall be ipso facto and ex-officio members of the Chapter's Board of Directors. The executive officers shall be nominated by the nominating committee and elected by the membership at the annual membership meeting.
- No changes to Section 1.
- Section 2. The President shall preside at all Board meetings; with the approval of the Board, shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for; shall be the general executive officer, and shall be an ex-officio member of all Chapter committees. The President may preside or appoint someone to preside at each Chapter meeting.
- No changes to Section 2.
- Section 3. The Vice President shall serve in the absence or inability of the President to act in the general administration of the Chapter. Unless circumstances change the Vice President is considered to be the president elect.
- No changes to Section 3.
- Section 4. The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds and property of the Chapter. With the President, **he or she** may sign and execute in the name of the Chapter all contracts, agreements, and other obligations of the Chapter, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. When necessary or proper, **he/she** shall endorse on behalf of the Chapter for collection all checks, notes, drafts and other obligations and shall deposit same to the credit of the Chapter in such bank or banks as the Board may designate. All checks or warrants for the disbursement of funds of the Chapter shall be signed by the President or Vice President, and counter-signed by the Treasurer. The Treasurer may be the sole signer of checks paying Chapter expenses provided the President has approved such payments and such approval has been given in writing (via email or other means) from the President to the Treasurer. Treasurer will maintain a file of such approvals for a period of three years.

Proposed changes to Section 4 **yellow highlights** - change to the Treasurer

Section 5. The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate accounts of monies received and paid on account of the Chapter, and whenever required by the Board of Directors, shall render a statement of **his/her** cash account. The Treasurer shall at all reasonable times exhibit **his/her** books, records and accounts to any Chapter Officer, Director or designated representative of the State Council and/or Trout Unlimited upon application, and shall perform generally all the duties **appertaining** to the office of Treasurer of a **Chapter to the control of the Board of Directors**

Proposed changes to Section 5 **yellow highlights** - change to the Chapter's
Proposed changes to Section 5 **blue highlights** - change to pertaining
Proposed changes to Section 5 **purple highlights** - chapter.
Proposed changes to Section 5 **orange highlights** - delete and replace with "The Treasurer shall advise the Board of Directors prior to submitting any requested exhibits." I think this is what was intended in the original language but not clearly said.

Section 6. The Secretary or appointee shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the membership. **He/she** shall be a custodian of all records, papers, files and books of the Chapter. **Except when necessary for the purpose of meetings, he/she shall not disclose, transfer, sell, barter, or lease to any person the names or addresses of the members or the membership list without prior approval of the Board of Directors.** He/she shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices of the Chapter, affix any required seal to the documents to which it should be attached, and attest to the same when necessary.

Proposed changes to Section 6 **yellow highlights** - change to the Secretary
Proposed changes to Section 6 **blue highlights** - sentence should be deleted. This topic has been addressed in Article II, Section 5

Section 7. The immediate past President shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors and shall assist the President in the administration of the Chapter.
- No changes to Section 7.

Section 8. The Board of Directors may appoint an Executive Committee to make organizational decisions on behalf of the full board. The Executive Committee will consist of Executive officers **(insert)** and others as appointed by the Board of Directors.

Proposed changes to Section 8 **yellow highlights** - , as defined in Article III, Section 1.

MEMBERS OUT THERE FISHING

I hope for this section to be an ongoing, monthly addition to the newsletter. I know alot of you are out and about in some interesting places, even some local places, so lets share (or brag a bit) by sending me a couple of shots of your catches or the area you're in.

- Photo 1 - Joyce Frey at the South Holston
- Photo 2 - Harry Fedderman at the Big Laurel in North Carolina
- Photo 3 - Bob Bishop at Norton Creek
- Photo 4 - Time Hurst helping out on Ernie Frey's March P&R Casting Class

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Park Recruits Trail Volunteers
Great Smoky Mountains National Park rangers are recruiting volunteers to adopt a trail along the 848 miles of maintained trails across the park. Volunteers are needed to hike at least one designated trail, four times per year, and submit a report on their findings. If you are interested, contact Trails and Facilities Volunteer Coordinator Adam Monroe by phone at 828-497-1949 or email adam_monroe@nps.gov to register for the training.

Tragedy Assistant Program for Survivors (TAPS)
A worthy program for a deserving group of people (deceased veterans survivors) that needs some help. Surviving military families across the nation will be fishing in our National Parks with **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)** in partnership with the **National Park Trust (NPT)**, and these important partners need our help to support the families of our nation's fallen. They need some fishy volunteers to help organize and volunteer as a part of this effort by contacting Rachel Hunsell at 240-630-1238 or at rachel.hunsell@taps.org

GSMNP Proposed Fee Program
Great Smoky Mountains National Park is seeking public input on proposed fee program changes for 2023, including a new parkwide parking fee and an increase to existing fee rates at front country and backcountry campsites, picnic pavilions, and day-use cabin rentals. The rate change proposal, as well as links for virtual meetings can be found at www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/2023-fee-proposal.htm.

Enjoy Spring Fishing
Joyce Frey
Newsletter Editor

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