

Little River Chapter

Newsletter

APRIL 2003

Editor Joe Hatton

<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/Littlerivertu/index.html>



Next Meeting

The next meeting is the **Member with Member fishing day** on Saturday **April 19**. Members will meet in the morning at 9:00 A.M. at Metcalf Bottom picnic shelter split-up of into pairs and fish until noon and eat a catered picnic lunch at the shelter, then pair back up and fish the rest of the day. The cost of the lunch is 10 dollars (fundraiser). The money will go to help off set the cost of the Newsletter. This is a great time for the new members to get to know the other members in the chapter and every member to have a chance to fish with somebody they have not fished with before.

Streams Work

May 17 - 18 Quarterly Acid Deposition Sample

May 24 North Carolina Trout Festival (Waynesville, NC)

July 14 - 17 Sams Creek Evaluation re-sample monitoring sites & evaluate brook trout

Little River CleanUp/ RoundUp

Sat April 12th. We need your help! Check-in for the clean up will be at the Thompson Brown House. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. For more information look on page three.

Fishing Picks

By: Ian Rutter April is the best month of the year for the dry fly fishermen. The only problem is deciding where to go. Almost anywhere you go you can expect plenty of activity on the surface.

Mountain streams see their most prolific hatches at this time of year. March Browns typically hatch sporadically all day long and are accompanied by several species of caddis. Hendricksons, sometimes called Red Quills, hatch in the evening. By the end of the month you can also expect to see some Light Cahills and Sulphurs. The first little yellow stoneflies, better known as Yellow Sallies, have appeared on Little River but it's usually the middle or end of the month before the thickest hatches occur.

Look for the best Yellow Sally hatches just before dark. Nymphs will almost always be more effective than dries before and during the hatch since these insects crawl to the bank and emerge on dry ground. The adults are only on the water when they lay eggs. If all the stoneflies are flying upwards, fish a nymph. If they are dapping the water to lay eggs fish a dry fly.

The tailwaters are also in their prime in April. The Clinch will see some of the best Sulphur hatches in late April. Beadhead Pheasant Tail Nymphs are usually the most effective fly during this time. (continued next page)

Fishing picks (continued from page one)

Comparaduns and Sparkle Duns are two great dry fly patterns to mimic Sulphurs on the Clinch's slick waters. The Hiwassee has had superb schedules for wading and has the most diverse insect line up of our tailwaters. Tan caddis are usually the most prolific hatches in the afternoon and evening but also look for Hendricksons, Blue Wing Olives, and midges. Watch for a pulsing schedule, usually off for three hours and on for one hour. The pulse is usually half a generator and remains fishable. The South Holston also has great hatches at this time of year. Look for a mix of olives and Sulphurs. These are some of the most finicky fish you'll find when flows are wadeable. This river has some of the largest fish you'll find rising to dries. Use long leaders, fine tippet, realistic emerger patterns and your best presentation!

From your Pres.

March is the month our Chapter recognizes a few special folks for their contributions in the previous year and that makes it a very special time. There is not enough space to tell everything about the recipients, but let me share just a little bit.

The Eddy George Award went to Jack Gregory for recognizing his continuous work every year in the field. You will find Jack at most every event: clean-ups, fish studies or other events. He continues to share his fishing knowledge with others and is unselfish in his contributions to chapter development. I must also say he makes one heck of a good cobbler.

This was the first year for The Little River Award for work behind the scenes. It was awarded to Mark Spangler primarily for his outstanding work preparing the grants we have submitted for several years. Mark also volunteered last year to represent our Chapter

on the Tn TU State Council. But Mark is not office bound and you will find him participating in most field events.

We also had a special one time award this year to recognize a man who really did not need another fly rod. A man who takes care of the business at hand. Ken Henderson has been active in the field when ever he can and has served in many leadership positions over the years. But we wanted to recognize Ken mostly for his annual contribution of his custom build rods awarded to the Eddy George recipients and for the first time the Little River Award. It took some work to come up with the proper recognition for Ken. It couldn't very well be a rod since the man may have more rods than any of us.

I can not say enough about these LRTU members and their contributions. Thank you again Jack, Mark and Ken.

**Tom Eustis speaking for the whole chapter
EXPECT A TELEPHONE CALL**

We are checking the information on our chapter roster. The directors have each taken a page of names and will call each member to be sure we have up to date address and telephone numbers. If we do not show an email address, you will be asked if you have one and if you would like to receive the newsletter by email rather than snail mail. So far almost half of those contacted have asked for the newsletter by email which will save a few trees and save the chapter some money for printing and postage. When you get a call please use that opportunity to tell us how we are doing and what we can do to make your TU membership more rewarding. Thank you for your membership and continued support of our cold water conservation work. Your small membership dues goes a long way.

TomE

Little River CleanUp/ RoundUp

Sat April 12th. Check-in for the clean up will be at the Thompson Brown House (TBH) on Lamar Alexander (US 321) across from Blount Memorial Hospital and down the hill from the Justice Center. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. Clean-up along the Little River is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. AND the party (barbecue, awards and music) is from 5 to 8 p.m. at the TBH. There will be an Educational Fair at the TBH from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. and LRTU will have our display and information available. If you think you can help call Gary Ramsey at 970-4900 or Tom Eustis at 681-2688 and leave a message on when you can volunteer. Give us a call and mark your calendar. We need as many member to show up as possible.

Road trips

I don't know but after the long winter, which to me seem longer then usually, and after spending a lot of time a working lately, I started thinking about all of the places I would like to fish this year. I started to really think about North Carolina after the great presentation that Roger Lowe gave our chapter last month. It has been a couple of years since I was there, but a place on the Blue Ridge Parkway that makes a great Base camp for fishing is **Pisgah Inn**. (web site <http://www.pisgahinn.com>). Located south of Asheville, NC at Milepost 408.6. Pisgah Inn is the highest elevation lodging on the Blue Ridge Parkway at over 5,000 feet. The lodge is open from early Spring through the fall leaf season.

If you have never stayed here there is nothing like waking up and looking at the great vista that looks down on the North Mills River valley. There is also an 137 site Campground across the street for those who don't mind roughing it. The Inn also has a really

nice restaurant with great views and a store with gas if you need to stock up before you head out.

From the Inn you have great access to five streams, the East and West Fork of the Pigeon, Davidson river and South and North Mills rivers. The East Fork of the Pigeon is the closest to the Inn. Going south on the parkway a little over three miles you will come to State Road 276 turn right and drive down the mountain for two miles till you come to the Big East Fork parking area. From here you have access to foot trail 357 which follows the river for three miles and reaches the Blue Ridge Parkway near Graveyard Ridge. This is a good day of fishing, you can fish up and walk back to your car or get someone to drop you off and pick you up on the parkway. Remember you are fishing up hill near 4500 ft elevation, but the scenery is well worth it. There are mostly Rainbows with some Brook trout in the Graveyard area. If you have kids the Graveyard is a good place to take some short hikes along the creek.

The next place you will want to fish is the Davidson River. To get to the Davidson turn left on State Road 276. You will have to travel a little farther down the mountain but the fishing can be well worth it. The catch and release fly fishing only section starts at the headwaters to Avery Creek. The Hatchery supported is from Avery creek to Ecusta intake. The fish in the fly fishing only section have seen just about every fly made but if you are lucky enough to catch one of the 20 inch plus fish, it is well worth it. There are several head water creeks that are easier to fish and will also give you a great experience. (continued next page)

Road trips (continued from page three)

If you don't mind driving on a dirt road for a few miles South Mill Creek is the next place to try your luck. Turn down State Road 276 like you are going to the Davidson River a couple of miles off the Blue Ridge Parkway there is a dirt road on your right, Forest Road 1206.

You will travel FR 1206 for about three miles when you turn right on FR 476. Drive a little over a mile and you will come to a parking area at the Gaging station. There is a foot trail that follows the river and you can hike down and fish your way back to your car. The trail leaves the river a about a mile and a half down stream at the Grassy ridge area and then rejoins the river again at trail junction 147 and trail 133. This is the area of the river I have enjoyed most over the years. The river is not very wide at this end but the fishing can be quit good.

If you can keep traveling FR 1206 for another five miles you will come to North Mill River campground. This is a good river to fish, but I can't give you much personal information on it. I have been to the camp ground but did not have time to fish it. You can fish up or down stream from this area.

Traveling south on the Blue Ridge Parkway near mile post 423 you will cross State Road 215. If you turn left on it and head north you will be following the West Fork of the Pigeon River. High up, the road crosses the river several times and you can fish bridge to bridge. This is a rugged area and fish can be tricky to catch, farther down stream fishing can be a little easier.

Heading south on State Road 215 will take you to the North Fork of the French Broad River. Yes the same river that helps form the Tennessee River in Knoxville. I have not fishfihed this river yet but hope to get to

this year if I can get pass the other rivers with out stopping. Make sure to stop by Roger Lowes Fly shop in Waynesville to get the latest stream information. He will be able to give you more detail and up to date information.

Bee Cliff Cabins

<http://www.beecliffcabins.com>

This is a place that I stayed at recently. If you have tried to stay in Elizabethton and fish the Watauga River you know that there is not much choice in a place stay.

With Bee Cliff cabins there is not a need in any. The cabins are on the river a mile below Wilber Dam. There are five cabins with three on the river the other two are about thirty yards away . The cabins on the river have one bedroom, a loft with two small beds and futon. The other two cabins are newer and larger. This a great base for fishing the upper river. The owners John and Norine Allen are really nice people.

When we stayed there two of the other cabins had fly fisherman staying in them. You can start by fishing the Bee Cliff area upstream from the cabins. Bee Cliff area is one of the few places that is off the road along the upper river. You walk and fish along the river edge and fish some long pools and nice eddies with a few rapids areas to break it up. On the upper rapid area I hooked and landed several nice browns during a light rain on BWO. The only problem is the land is heavily posted, so you half to stay below high water mark but I did not have any problem getting back and forth.

The next area down is stream, you can drive and park at the old Railroad trestle. That look to have some long pools and a rifle at each end. A little further down the road is Siam Bridge which is the long metal bridge. (continued next page)

Bee Cliff (continued from page four)

The pull-outs are on down stream side of the bridge. This area looks to be a good fly fishing area with nice long riffles.

The next area I like is a little bit further down stream. It is Brummit area up to the Church pool. There are some pull-outs above the church you can park at, but I think that parking down at Watauga Industrial Park and fishing up to the church pool is the better approach. This area has a lot different runs, riffles and pools you can spend all day fishing this area. The church pool is also popular with Fly fishermen. **Mahoney's** 830 Sunset Dr. Johnson City, is the best place to get the local fishing information and to stock up on the hottest flies. Make sure you pick up the Watauga River Fishing Map, it is a detailed map of the places to park and fish along the river from Wilber Dam to the lower end of the Trophy Section. There is also a new fly shop in Elizabethton, Riverman Outfitters 819 Broad Street across from the Food City. I noted that the shop had a good selection of fly tying material, especially Deer and Elk hair and other furry animal parts used for tying flies. Remember the water release schedule, the water can rise rapidly especially in the Bee Cliff area which is a mile downstream from the dam .

Joe Hatton

Tennessee Angler Recognition Program

For of you that go in search of big fish. Here is away that can be you be recognize by the state and other anglers. TARP features two levels of anglers recognition. Anglers catching a fish that meet or exceed the minimum "trophy" length requirement will receive a Trophy Fish certificate. These certificates feature Tomelleri artwork representing the species caught by the

applicant. After anglers catch five trophy size fish in any combination, a Master Angler certificate and patch will be awarded at no cost to the angler. You can get a application at our meeting

Minimum Trophy fish Lengths

Brook Trout	10	Brown Trout	26
Rainbow Trout	24	Largemouth Bass	22
Spotted Bass	18	Smallmouth Bass	20
Striped Bass	40	Cherokee Bass	30
White Bass	18	Crappie	14
Bluegill	10	Redear Sunfish	11
Rock Bass	10	Sauger	20
Walleye	28	Muskellunge	40
Lake Trout	28	Channel Catfish	34
Flathead Catfish	34	Common Crap	34

Fly of the Month

Yellow Simulator

Hook: 200R, Size 14, 16

Thread: Fluorescent Fire Orange

Tail: Light Elk

Rib: Fine Gold Wire

Body: Bright yellow Haretron or Antron dubbing palmered with badger or ginger hackle

Wing: Light elk

Hackie: Grizzly, three to four turns thru the thorax

Thorax: Amber goat

Legs: White Rubber





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