

Little River Chapter Newsletter

Editor
Joe Hatton



April, 2006
www.lrctu.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the fourth Thursday April the 27th, 7:00 P.M. at Monte Vista Baptist Church at 1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd. in Maryville. The church has an entrance on the opposite side of Hwy 129 between the Bi-Lo and the Co-op Gas station.

Program

Ian & Charity Rutter will be presenting the program this month. It's titled Fly Fishing the Variety of East Tennessee's Trout Waters: Mountain Streams, Tailwaters, and Lakes. Ian and Charity will also be signing copies of their newest book, *Rise Rings & Rhododendron: Fly Fishing the Mountain Streams & Tailwaters of Southern Appalachia*. Books will be available to buy at the meeting.

Stream Work

April 15 TN Little River Clean-Up Day

Meet at the Metcalf Bottoms picnic area at 9:00AM. There will be a free lunch with hamburgers, hotdogs, potatoes chips, salad etc, after the clean-up. There will also be "member fishing with member" fishing that afternoon. This is a great time for members that may be new to the area or just starting out fishing to be shown the park waters by a seasoned fisherman.

May 20 - 21 Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample

Fishing Picks

By Ian Rutter: April is one of those months when the fishing is good almost everywhere. The mountain streams have warmed up enough to fish more consistently than they did in March. Tailwater flows are usually ideal since TVA is trying to fill reservoirs. This means that most of the big rivers have a generation schedule that is pretty light and allows wading.

The Quill Gordon hatch hasn't been as consistent this year as it has been in previous years. This probably had something to do with the pendulum swings of the weather, warm one week and cold the next. Weather tends to even out in April and so do the hatches. The cool temperatures in March tend to keep the best hatches in the afternoon, but fishing will be better earlier and later in the day as April progresses. Caddis hatches will become more prolific along with a smattering of large March Brown mayflies, smaller olives, and a few other insects debuting by the end of the month. Watch for evening hatches of Hendricksons and Yellow Sallies before the first of May. While April can be such a great month for fishing, it does have its drawbacks. Some of the heaviest rains of the year occur this month and can raise water levels beyond the point where fishing is possible. Don't worry, though. Our tailwaters will remain fishable.

April is a great time on the tailwaters as well. The Clinch will fish well with tiny midge patterns as well as larger Beadhead Pheasant ▶

Tails in #16 which imitate the Sulphur nymphs drifting before the hatch. Clinch River Sulphur hatches have been only a shadow of what we saw in the early 90's, but they still happen. Watch for the hatch to begin by the end of this month. Midges and sowbugs will keep you hooked up in the absence of Sulphurs. It's prime time to wade the Hiwassee. A pulsing schedule keeps the river flowing without ever getting too high to wade. Watch for a variety of insects including Hendricksons, cream caddis, and Blue Wing Olives. This will last through the month unless periods of heavy rain fill the reservoirs sooner than usual.

One last thing, a ton of new brook trout water will open shortly. Most of this water is pretty far back in the backcountry. We've actually had it pretty good here on the Tennessee side of the park as most of our best brook trout water has been open for a while. Road Prong which flows into the West Prong of the Little Pigeon off the slopes of the Chimneys is probably the best piece of closed water we can look forward to fishing. Those who might consider an overnight excursion should look into fishing Little River high up at and even above campsite #30. Charity and I shocked this water with park biologists a few years back and helped move some brookies from there to Sam's Creek. Grouse Creek, Rattler Branch, and Meigs Post Prong are all good places to find brookies in the Tennessee backcountry. Previously open waters like Cosby Creek, Fish Camp Prong, Goshen Prong, and Walker's Camp Prong are all good streams for brook trout as well. So far the brook trout water has been a bit on the cold side for good fishing, but that will change by the end of this month as well.



BROOK TROUT (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

Tickets

Tickets for our **Troutfest Banquet** are on sale now, see Roy Hawk at the next meeting or call him at 690-4795. We are limited to 160 guest so pick yours up now before we run out.

The **Bamboo For Brookies** 2006 Fly rod and case can be seen at Little River outfitters. You can purchase tickets there for this beautiful rod and case, or see me at our next meeting. .

Thanks, Joe

Fly Rod Building Video on DVD

We now have the Fly Rod Crafting by Ken Lea on DVD format. This should make it easier to watch each step of the DVD while you are at your work bench without having to have a bulky TV and VHS player. Just pick up one of the small portable DVD players, pop in the DVD and you will be building your own fly rod in no time. The DVD's are available in DVD-R or DVD+R formats, just check which format your player will play and pick one up at our next meeting or give me a call at 558-8782 and I will work out arrangements to get one to you.

Thanks, Joe

Great Smoky Mountains National Park to open Brook trout streams to fishing

By Gary Vorholek: The Great Smoky Mountains National Park announced the opening of Park streams for Brook trout fishing for the first time in over 30 years. This is a milestone event for the Park and for an avid group of supporters from several communities in East Tennessee known as the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Biologists in the early '70's were convinced that brook trout were losing range to the non-native Rainbow and Brown trout, and that fishing pressure was further reducing ▶

Brook trout numbers. In 1976, in response to these concerns, managers closed over 150 miles of Park streams where “Brookies” were predominate and initiated Brook trout restoration projects in select streams.

In the spirit of the TU mission of *‘conserving, protecting and restoring coldwater fisheries and watersheds’*, the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited was formed in 1992 to directly support the NPS Fisheries Department efforts. The initial 17-member core quickly grew to an active group of almost 300, and has been a unique source of manpower and funds for Brookie restoration. Their efforts include hosting fund raising events such as TROUTFEST in Townsend, which provided over \$20,000 in the past two years. With LRCTU assistance, Park fisheries biologists have found that “Brookies” are able to co-exist with the non-native trout in 69 miles of Park streams. Park fisheries managers and LRCTU members subsequently restored 17 miles of stream to pure Brook trout populations, and more are scheduled for restoration.

After over 25 years of study, Park biologists had observed that natural occurrences such as floods and droughts were the major force behind changes in fish populations in both open and closed streams. They suspected that allowing angling for Brook trout would have no measurable impact on fish population or size.

In 2002 Park biologists tested that hypothesis on eight streams (4 in TN, 4 in NC). The study found there were no significant differences in any stream opened to brook trout fishing during the study period. Variations that did occur were attributable to natural variation and were not related to fishing pressure.

“Given that we could find no ecological benefit to prohibiting anglers from taking brook trout,” said Park Supervisory Fisheries

Biologist, Steve Moore, “and the opportunity to offer anglers a very enjoyable experience, Park management has decided to open nearly all our streams to fishing.”

“So on April 15,” Moore concluded, “All but a handful of the over 700 miles of Park streams will be opened to fishing as part of an experimental regulation to allow additional time to monitor impacts of fishing activity.”

During active Brook trout restoration projects on parts of Sams Creek, Bear Creek, and Indian Flats Prong, which have been recently restored, streams will remain closed while those populations continue to rebuild.

Spring Cleaning

If you have changed your Internet provider and are not receiving the Newsletter by e-mail anymore please send me your new address.

Thanks for your help

Joe

Fly of the Month

March Brown Eastern, A.K.'s

HOOK-TMC 100, sizes 12-16.

THREAD-Tan, 6/0

TAIL-Dark ginger spade hackle fibers.

BODY-Tan turkey biot.

WING-Dyed medium dun hen hackle tips, pair.

HACKLE-Medium ginger and light grizzly, one of each.





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