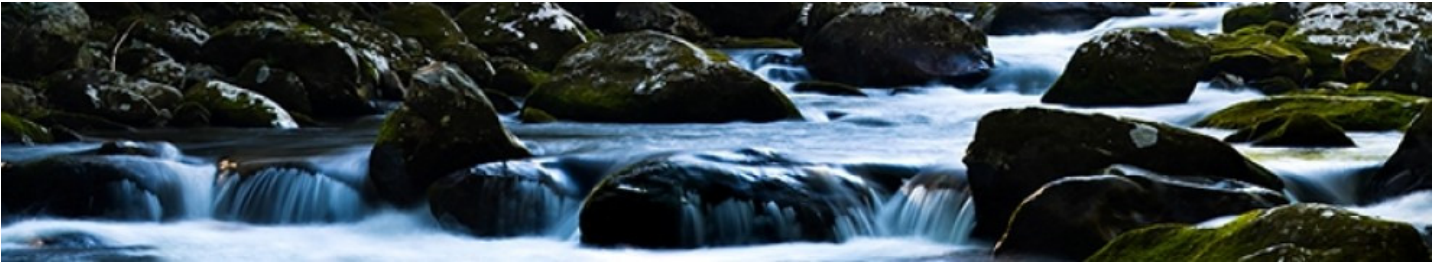


Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

April 2013 Newsletter



President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

The last couple of months have been a bit different from our normal routine. Jan and I have been travelling, with trips to Florida, Arizona, West Virginia and North Carolina. That's on top of our normal family visits to Ohio. Until our trip to Arizona in March, I hadn't seen the inside of an airplane in over 2-1/2 years since I retired. In my career at P&G, my job required extensive travel. I had over 1.6 million frequent flyer miles with Delta Airlines alone. I don't miss it! I've had the opportunity to travel to many locations in the United States as well as some international travel. There are some astonishingly beautiful places in the world. But I've come to appreciate the wonders of living in east Tennessee with its phenomenal natural beauty and great people. It's a great place to call home.



When we were in Arizona, I did fish for trout up in Oak Creek which is near Sedona. The area is beautiful with its famous red rocks. But few know there's a trout stream running nearby. Oak Creek runs through a canyon with plenty of pocket water. While the fishing was great, the catching wasn't. An earlier major snowfall in the area had melted dropping the water temperature. I didn't have a water thermometer with me, but the water had to be well below 40 degrees.

I had the opportunity to attend my first TU – Southeast Regional Meeting in March. Over fifty leaders that included chapter presidents, state council leaders, as well as the TU national leaders attended. It was a great opportunity to learn and more importantly meet other TU leaders. The overall health of Trout Unlimited is good, membership nationwide is growing (over 150,000 strong), strong educational programs are working and outreach programs are taking off.

P.S. In this month's Member Profile, check the great fish Sheila Bolinger is holding. I'm not sure which is bigger – the fish or Sheila's smile.

LRCTU on the Road at Orvis Retail Store Last Month

We had a great March membership meeting at the Orvis store in Sevierville. Many thanks to both Kris Maurer and Dave Carson for their hospitality and great food.

We had our first chapter fishing trip in March. Checkout Mike McKinsey's article. Mike is planning on additional trips this year. This is a great way to meet and fish with fellow chapter members and for new members to learn from our more experienced members. Thanks Mike for your efforts!!

I want to give a big thanks to Gary Verholek. Gary, working with Steve Moore and Matt Kulp secured a \$4800 Embrace-A-Stream grant from TU. The funds will go towards continued research in brook trout genetics. Thanks Gary!!

Upcoming Events

Check out the article on our upcoming Little River cleanup scheduled for April 20. This is a great way to give back and support the GSMNP.

If you are a teen or know of a teen that is a dedicated angler and conservationist who has shown involvement with TU and has just completed 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade, check out the TU Teen Summit scheduled for this summer. This is a great opportunity for our youth to spend time with other like-minded youth and develop into the next generation of leaders. And the Summit is held at the Grand Teton National Park!! For an application form and more info: <http://www.tu.org/about-us/youth/teensummit>

Several other events are on the horizon. The Federation of Fly Fishers – South East Council (FFF-SEC) will be holding the Fly Fishing Festival on May 17-18. More information can be found on their website southeastfff.org. Remember, a joint fundraising effort between our Chapter and FFF-SEC will be conducted on Friday, May 17 to raise funds for brook trout restoration in the Park. We hope to see you there.



SOUTHEASTERN FLY FISHING FESTIVAL



The Thunder Valley Wine and Fly will be held in Bristol on May 3-4. Check out the details in the attached article. Proceeds from the event will benefit children in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia http://bristol.speedwaycharities.org/events/thunder_valley_fly_and_wine/.

Finally, the Clinch River Chapter has a free Clinch River Trout Seminar. It's free and open to all – here's an opportunity to learn more about fishing on the Clinch River. More details can be found in the attached article.

Lots going on now, so take advantage of the opportunities. The air and water are warming up and the trout and smallies are getting happy. I can't wait!! I hope to see you on the water. Be safe!

Thanks,
Mike Bryant

Coming Up Saturday, April 20: Little River Clean-Up

Plan to be a part of our annual Little River Clean-up on **Saturday, April 20**. This is an important part of our mission to preserve and protect watersheds in the Park. All are invited. We will meet at the Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area. Plan to be there by 9:00 am. Steve Moore and Matt Kulp will lead the cleanup efforts. After the clean-up, we'll provide lunch around 12:00. There will be plenty of fishing opportunities and fellowship in the afternoon.

The Clean Up takes the place of our April general meeting. No General Meeting held this month.



Member Profile

(In an effort to help us get to know each other better, we will occasionally include Member Profiles in our newsletters and on the website. This month, we're profiling Sheila Bolinger, who serves on the board as your LRCTU Treasurer.)

Name: Sheila Bolinger

Nickname: Memaw

City / County Residence: City of Maryville in Blount County

Years Fly Fishing: Approx. 15 years

Years Fly Tying / Rod Building / etc: A couple of years of fly tying, no rod building

History of Fly Fishing:

- Mentors? Husband, Bill Bolinger
- Key Memories? Many fly fishing trips to Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, and Arkansas. Fished many rivers in Alaska, as well as the Bow River in Canada.

Favorite Places to Fly Fish:

- **Locally:** South Holston River and our Smoky Mtn. National Park streams.



• **Outside The Local Area:** I'd have to say Yellowstone National Park rivers, especially Soda Butte. We had a hoot fishing the Bow River in Canada. Would love to go there again.

Favorite Fly to Tie: When I was tying flies, I was tying Thunderheads a lot, as well as caddis pupa and others. Not tying much these days.

Best Fly Fishing / Tying Story: One of my most memorable fly fishing trips was on the Bow River in Canada. We were catching beautiful 20+ inch browns & rainbows, right & left. Finally, the rainbows turned into "acrobatic rainbows" and started jumping into our drift boat! Much, much fun!

Here We Grow Again!

Wayne Everbach – Membership Chair

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is off to a great start in 2013. We have added 10 new members since the first of 2013 and added 46 new members in 2012! Our total chapter now numbers 260 strong and continues to give back to the sport we love and want to protect. We want to welcome the new members who have recently joined and thank the existing members who have renewed their commitment to cold water fisheries by continuing to support our chapter. It was great seeing the new and old faces at the recent fishing expedition in the Smokies and the March meeting at the Orvis shop in Sevierville.

As we continue into the new year, we have a lot of activities planned including monthly meetings, projects in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and fishing expeditions. We hope to see you at the April 20 meeting at Metcalf Bottoms for the stream cleanup and picnic. Fishing to follow, of course!

Chapters First Fishing Trip of the Year a Success

When I chose the date of our first fishing trip of the year, I envisioned a beautiful warm spring day in the mountains of East Tennessee with blue skies, water temperatures around 50 degrees, and plenty of bugs hatching and on the water.....Well, it was more like 40 degrees water temp, overcast, cold, air temp also around 40 degrees and felt more like Winter than Spring.



We had a fair turnout with 8 anglers meeting at LRO at 9:00 A.M. After a biscuit and some fine coffee provided by the good folks at LRO, we paired up in groups of two to go out and fish the Smokey's. We had 3 anglers who were relatively new to fly fishing or new to fishing the National Park. Thanks to Stan, Dan, and Joe who was happy to take a new angler under their wing for a day. Almost all caught fish, although it was very tough conditions.

I took Jim P with me. He was new to fly fishing and had never fished the park. We went below Elkmont near Millsaps Bottoms. After getting suited up and our fly rods rigged, we entered the stream. I showed Jim what had been shown me a few years ago about reading the water, staying as stealthy as possible and getting a

good drift. We tied him on a #12 March brown and a pheasant tail nymph as a dropper. It wasn't long before he had a hit on the dry, but did not get a hook up. He wanted me to fish and him watch me for a little while. He was a quick learner and after a little while he hooked a fish, but did not land it. We fished the remainder of the run and I did manage a brown trout on a nymph.

We went back to the parking lot and saw Ross and Joe who were also participating in our outing, but had came to the park earlier. They told us of some rising rainbows above the bridge at Elkmont. Jim and I decided to go give them a try. As we walked up to the hole, we observed a couple of rising trout. I told Jim they were his and I was going to watch from the bank. He fished the hole beautifully and on the fourth or fifth cast, he hooked a 15" brown trout. He fought the fish perfectly and in a few moments I was holding the trout while he took pictures. I must say that he was grinning from ear to ear. Not many people can say on their first outing to the Park, that they hooked and landed a 15" brown trout on a dry fly.

All in all, was a great trip. We are already working on plans for the next trip possibly in June. We will keep you informed and maybe you can make the next one.

- Mike McCormick



Acid Deposition Schedules for 2013 Posted

Matt Kulp has posted the most current schedule for the 2013 season of Acid Deposition sampling in the GSMNP. Leaders and participants should have received a schedule of upcoming dates, sites and team leaders. Those schedules, in PDF format, will be posted soon on the chapter's website at www.lrctu.org

Another Successful LRCTU Board Meeting: Joe McGroom proves that smallies are getting active on Little River following the chapter board meeting on Hitch Road Sunday.

The Little River Chapter Trout Unlimited Newsletter is produced for current members. Please ensure that you have a viable email address on file with your membership information at Trout Unlimited. You can add an email address or update your current email at www.tu.org or call 1-800-834-2419.

Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website www.lrctu.org