

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

April 2014 Newsletter



Reminder: There is no membership meeting in April. Our big event will be Troutfest on Friday, April 25. If you haven't already purchased your Troutfest tickets, there is still time. See the article below for more information.

President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)



Jan and I are now back from a long stay in southern Florida in the 10,000 Island region of the Everglades. The weather and the food were great. But saltwater flyfishing can be a humbling experience. Our target fish were snook, redfish and baby tarpon, though we caught a variety of fish including sea trout, small jacks, ladyfish and small sharks. We had better luck catching fish with spinning rods and bucktail jigs than with a fly rod. Besides trying to locate fish and what they were eating, we had to contend with managing a kayak in the wind and tides. It's safe to say I didn't crack the code, but I learned a lot and we'll be back again next year.

Anyway, we're happy to be back home especially with warm weather making for happy trout. I'm looking forward to great year of fishing in the Park and the tailwaters.

How can you help support your Chapter and the Park? First, we hope to see you at Troutfest Banquet and Auction on April 25. Second, our annual Little River Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 3. More details on both events can be found below.

Also, note that Trout Unlimited has started a program to recruit more woman members. Check out the great offer below.

I hope you are having a great Spring. I hope to see you at Troutfest and the Little River Clean-up. Our next membership meeting will be May 22.

Be safe,

Mike

Habera Provides Good TWRA Update LRCTU General Meeting March 27

Jim Habera, TWRA Programs Manager over Region IV, gave a thorough breakdown and stream preview of wild and stocked fished rivers in 21 counties east of Tennessee's plateau that make up this region. This region comprises one of the most diverse and plentiful trout fishing waters in the country. It contains stocked streams, tailwaters, wild streams and reservoirs that provide habitat for trout

Of the 625 miles of wild trout water, Doe Creek, located outside Mountain City, TN, promises some of the best wild rainbow trout prospects in the region, Habera said. If you're hunting brown trout, then Laurel Fork, in Carter County, is a good place to start looking, he noted.



There are 103 designated brook trout streams in Region IV, that together make up approximately 142 miles of habitable water for the species. For the best brook trout fishing in Tennessee, Habera suggested the Left Prong of Hampton Creek, located in Hampton Creek Cove Scenic Recreational Area near Roane Mountain State Park. <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/natural-areas/natural-areas/hampton/>

A brand new state park, Rocky Fork State Park, located approximately 30 miles southwest of Johnson City, is being developed and will contain maintained trails and trout waters, Habera noted.

Regarding tailwaters, Habera said TWRA will release more than 630,000 trout annually into the six stocked streams below dams in this region. He noted that enforced slot limits were helping to keep larger fish in the streams for more anglers to enjoy catching.

If you're into lake trout and you can gauge the depth they happen to be feeding at, it's a fun trip Habera said. Fort Patric Henry Reservoir, near Boone has produced record brown trout, he said. Of the 7 trout habitable reservoirs in the state, Habera suggested trying the South Holston Reservoir for plentiful lake trout.



Jim has B.S. (1984) and M.S. (1986) degrees from UT Knoxville and did his graduate work on brook and rainbow trout in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). He was the Research Associate for the TWRA-sponsored Wild Trout Project at UT Knoxville during the 1990s and came to TWRA in 1998 to continue that work.

As added information to his program, Habera sent a follow up photo of what has been informally named Tiger Trout which appears to be a hybrid of

a couple of indigenous trout species here.

Here's the photo of the tiger trout I mentioned (but couldn't find) at the meeting last week. This fish was captured in Deep Gap Creek in the Sundquist State Forest (Cocke Co.) in 2012. We brought it back to our lab where our technician (Carl Williams), who does some high-quality photography, got this image.



Thanks to Jim for a great March Program.

Troutfest NEWS

2014 Banquet & Auction

Have you purchased your tickets for the Little River Trout Unlimited Chapter 2014 Troutfest

Banquet and Benefit Auction yet? Everyone is welcome to this casual event and tickets are now on sale through April 11.

**Friday, April 25
6:00 pm**

Chuck James, who, along with other volunteers, has been hard at work soliciting items from supporters for the auction. He reports that, so far, we have gotten items valued at a total of \$15,000. The auction promises to be a great opportunity to pick up some needed items. A sampling of available auction goodies includes:

- Custom bamboo rod from the one and only Walter Babb.
- Helios rod from Orvis, the rod of your choice from TFO and a Bass Pro fly rod outfit.
- Guide wade and drift trips from our local and regional guides (Mike Adams, Rob Fightmaster, R&R Fly Fishing (Ian and Charity Rutter), Frontier Anglers)Josh Pfieffer), Southeastern Anglers, Trout Zone Anglers, 3 Rivers, and more)
- Gift certificates from local outfitters.
- Fly boxes filled with flies tied by some of our best tiers.
- Regional artwork from regional artists.
- Gift certificates from local restaurants.
- Gift certificates from local hotels.
- Cool accessories for your home.
- Gift baskets with an assortment of items.

Ticket purchase information can be found at www.Troutfest.org. In addition tickets may be picked up in person at Little River Outfitters or the Orvis Store in Sevierville. Remember this is our major

Coming Up Saturday, May 3: Little River Clean-Up

Plan to be a part of our annual Little River Clean-up on **Saturday, May 3**. 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. Matt Kulp will lead the cleanup efforts. After the clean-up, we'll provide a great lunch prepared by Outdoor Chef Extraordinaire Mike McKinsey around 12:00. There will be plenty of fishing opportunities and fellowship in the afternoon.



Orvis Sevierville Store Opportunity

Dave Carson of the Orvis Sevierville store has an offer for our members. Dave conducts Fly Fishing 101 classes at the store and is looking for volunteers to help out. You do not need to be an expert. Anyone who volunteers to help with 1-2 classes will receive a one-time discount of 30% in store products.

Volunteer for 3-5 classes and receive one-time discount of 40% off in store products. And anyone who volunteers 6 or more classes will receive a one-time discount of 50% in store products. The discount is for the volunteer's personal use only. The discounts do not apply to watercraft, Costa products, Smith products, Yeti coolers, guns or furniture. If you are interested, please contact Dave Carson at 865-774-4162.

TU Women Recruitment Program

Trout Unlimited has an offer that women will find hard to refuse. In an effort to increase women membership, TU is offering free membership for a year. Current woman members can renew at half-price for only \$17.50. This is a great opportunity for women to join or continue their membership in TU.

The recruiting chapter will receive \$15 (of the \$17.50) for any woman renewing her membership. Remember to include the Little River Chapter (#644) as your chapter number. **But this is a limited time offer that extends only to May 3, 2014.** New members can sign up at www.tu.org/womenjoin . The link for renewals is www.tu.org/womenrenew .

Remembering David “Mike” Shaver

It is great sadness to announce that Mike Shaver passed away at home surrounded by his family on March 29, 2014 after a short battle with cancer. Mike was 62 years old. Mike was friend and strong supporter of the Little River Chapter and the Great Smoky Mountain Park. He was a friend to many in the area.

Mike is survived by his wife of 33 years Rhea Shaver; sister Annette Ferguson; his son and best fishing buddy Ross Shaver and daughter-in-law Amanda Shaver; his granddaughter, the apple of his eye, Gracie Faith.

Please keep Mike's family in your prayers.

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.

Note: Anyone with news, such as an event or account of a fishing trip, etc., please send it along to newsletter editor, Dave Ezell ezop@charter.net

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