

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

April, 2016 Newsletter



Monthly Meeting

**Thursday, April 28th at
Calhoun's Maryville**

President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

After a terrible month of fishing down in the Everglades, I was a happy camper to be back in the Park chasing trout again. Trout tend to be happy this time of year, and they didn't disappoint with splashy rises to my dry fly. Most of my fishing in the Park over the last several weeks has been up on Middle Prong. Trout are definitely looking up. One afternoon, I didn't see many bugs coming off the water, so I tied on a trustworthy Parachute Adams. As a habit, I try to learn something new every time I get out on the water. On my parachutes, I've been testing different colors for the post. On this bright clear day, I tied on a #14 Adams with a fluorescent orange post. While it was easy for me to see the fly, the fish weren't all that thrilled with it. I decided to downsize to a #16 with a white post. Immediately the rainbows changed their tune and starting rising to my fly. The next day, the wind was blowing like crazy. So I went back to that #14 Parachute Adams with the orange post, thinking that a bigger fly would be easier for the fish to find in choppy water. Rainbows rose to that fly all afternoon. So when you get the opportunity to wet a line, try to get in the habit of observing, thinking about the conditions and experimenting.



This year looks to be a busy time for volunteer work. Matt Kulp has an ambitious plan for new brook trout restoration efforts, mercury studies along with our on-going water and fish sampling studies. The Park Service will again rely on our support with our time, talents and donations. Given our Chapter mission is to support the Park, we need everyone's help. In this newsletter, you'll find more details on volunteer and fundraising opportunities.

And remember, our annual Little River Clean-up is **Saturday, April 30**. If you can make, consider bringing a kid. It's a great way to expose them to our Park.

Many thanks to David Perry for his great tailwater presentation at last month's meeting. I learned a lot!

This month's program is Thursday, April 28. Jake Rash, the Coldwater Research Coordinator for NC Wildlife Resources Commission will provide a presentation on Gill Lice and Whirling Disease recently discovered in North Carolina. This will be a very important discussion regarding new invasive species threats to our waterways. You don't want to miss this talk.

Enjoy the weather and outdoors. I hope to see you at the April 28 meeting.

-Mike

April Meeting Highlights Gill Lice and Whirling Disease Threat to Local Trout Populations

Jake Rash, Coldwater Research Coordinator for NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Jake will be speaking to us about Whirling Disease and Gill Lice.

Within its Public Mountain Trout Waters Program, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) manages approximately 5,000 miles and 2,000 acres of flowing and impounded resources, respectively. Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Brown Trout populations comprise the majority of these resources, which are distributed across 26 counties of western North Carolina. In addition, a single population of self-sustaining Kokanee Salmon exists within Nantahala Reservoir, Macon County.

Since September 2014, NCWRC biologists have documented new biological threats to salmonids within the State. Gill lice (Copepoda: Lernaepodidae: *Salmincola*) have been found on Brook Trout and Rainbow Trout populations. Further taxonomic evaluations of copepod collections are ongoing; however, elsewhere within the United States, *S. edwardsii* and *S. californiensis* are known to parasitize salmonids of the genera of *Salvelinus* and *Oncorhynchus*, respectively. Additionally, whirling disease was confirmed in Rainbow Trout collected from Watauga River, Watauga County, in July 2015.

Confirmation of each of these threats marked their initial discovery in North Carolina. Sampling for copepods and *Myxobolus cerebralis* (the parasite responsible for whirling disease) has continued since these initial observations as the NCWRC seeks to learn more about the invasive organisms' distribution and effects to the State's salmonids.

Annual Little River Cleanup!!!!

Don't miss out on a fun time and the chance to help out the Park. Our annual Little River Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 30**. This is a great opportunity to give back by spending a couple of hours in the Park we love.



And lunch will be provided by the three amigos (John Reinhardt, Dan Moneymaker and Mike Bryant), a win-win situation! So mark your calendar for Saturday, April 30 starting at 9:00am. We'll meet at Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area.

2016 LRCTU Fundraisers

Last year the Little River Chapter Board of Directors decided not to sponsor a Troutfest Banquet and Auction on 2016. While still committed to raising donations for the Park and youth education, we decided to take a new and fresh approach to fundraising. This year we are taking a three prong approach:

- Grants / Matching Funds – Several of our Board members have applied for grants with their businesses and employers. Many companies have charitable grants and matching gift programs for their employees. Many other companies / corporations provide grants to non-profit organizations like our Chapter to support nature and the outdoors. We currently have a sizable grant request into a large outdoor clothing company that if granted, will support multiple new Trout-in-the-Classroom programs in our region.
- Advertisement – We are offering a limited number of paid advertisements in our monthly LRCTU newsletter.

- Direct Contact Campaign / Event – The Board is working to develop a fundraising campaign that will ask our members and likeminded conservationists to participate in a fundraising program and event. More to come on this as we work out the options and details.

How can you help?

Check with your company or employer to see they provide grants or matching fund programs. Also, let us know of other companies, corporations and/or government agencies that provide grants to non-profit organizations.

Let us know of any local business that may be interested in advertising in our newsletter.

Finally, please consider helping on any of our fundraising programs. We support the Park with our time and talents as well as our donations. Every bit is needed and appreciated.

Please contact Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com) if you can help or have information that might be useful in the above fundraising programs.

Spring Camping at Cattaloochee

The spring camping trip to Cattaloochee the weekend of April 9 – 12 was true to form. There was wind, rain, sleet, snow and did I mention the wind!!! There were clear skies on Saturday, but that meant it got REALLY cold. There were eight of us, which included some members of the Smoky Mountain Chapter. Everyone caught fish, ate plenty and had a great time. The next trip is proposed for September 23 – 25 at Smokemont. Come join us for the fun.



TIE & LIE Scheduled for April 25th at the Casual Pint

Get ready for the next South Holston trip where there just happens to be one of the most prodigious sulphur hatches in the country. This month we'll take on the sulphur and its subtleties. Come by the Casual Pint, enjoy a stout and learn how to tie this enticer. We'll meet at the Casual Pint in Maryville on April 25 around 6 p.m.

-Ernie Frey



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 reveals the inside skinny on a longtime LRCTU board member and behind the scenes mover and shaker, Dave Anderson. When he's not busy plying his trade as marketing guy for Dollywood, he can be found helping steer our chapter programs and maybe even on a stream once in a while.)

Name: Dave Anderson

City/County Residence: Wears Valley/Sevierville

General Family Info: Wife Tonya who has been putting up with my fishing addiction for more than 34 years, two grown daughters and one son-in-law. None are fishermen, but all enjoy camping, hiking, and spending time in the mountains.

Years Fly Fishing: 35+

Years Fly Tying/Rod Building / etc.:

Fly Tying – making a mess on my fly tying desk for 35 years

Rod building – First fly rod was a Fenwick Fiberglass kit that I assembled. Have built several graphite rods and someday hope to build a bamboo rod.

History of Fly Fishing:

- Mentors? In the words of Walter Babb - “the usual suspects”
- Key Memories? My grandfather introducing me to fishing at an early age; discovering fly fishing while living near a tail water stream in SW Missouri; and getting the opportunity to move to East TN in 1986 and begin a lifelong pursuit of native trout and the occasional smallmouth bass. Enjoy both traditional western style rods and have been fishing with Tenkara gear for several years.

Fly Fish Educational Activities: Many fly tying demonstrations, Troutfest, and other fly fishing events. I feel fortunate to live in an area with so many gifted fishermen and fly tiers who are willing to share information and teach others.

Favorite Places to Fly Fish:

• Locally: GSMNP – Any GSMNP streams. Favorites - Little River tributaries and Hazel Creek

• Outside the Local Area: Yellowstone National Park, Montana, Idaho, and Colorado

Favorite Fly to Tie: I find it rewarding to find a fish that is dumb enough to eat any fly I tie. I do tie a number of flies that are extremely successful at catching rhododendron and other tree species.

Best Fly Fishing/Tying Story: Fly fishing/camping trips to Hazel Creek and a multi-day horse pack trip to Slough Creek in Yellowstone National Park.





TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

By Joyce Frey

Just like past seasons of trout in the classroom, there is always something new to be learned. Several of the schools were experiencing high ammonia which required numerous water changes, even after adding the “stinky stuff”. This is the bacteria put in the filter to reduce the ammonia to nitrite then to nitrate. After an order of new “stinky stuff” was received, the teachers and coordinators noticed that it was a lot more odiferous than the current bottle they were using. Well, we found out that the “stinky stuff” has an expiration date of one year after being opened. Once the new product was used, the bacteria starting doing its job, the ammonia levels came down and the numerous water changes were reduced. Normal water changes due to high nitrates are to be expected at this point in the cycle because the fish are getting bigger and more food and waste is being added to the tank.

All the schools are preparing for their releases to Little River at the Townsend KOA within the first three weeks of May. We are going to need some volunteers to help us with the various programs arranged for the students. In addition to releasing the trout, the Park Service will be providing a show and tell of caught trout (will need a couple of volunteers an hour prior to the schools arrival) a water quality testing station, and a bug identification station.

Below is the schedule for each of the schools. Please check your calendars and let me know if you can help out for a couple of hours. I can be reached at jmfrey@comcast.net.

School	Date & Time	Location	# of volunteers
Little River Montessori school 20 +/- students	May 4 @ 4:00 pm Wednesday	Townsend KOA	2 – 4
Lenior City Middle 150 +/- 5 th graders	May 9 @11:00 am Monday	Metcalf Bottoms picnic area	4 – 6
John Sevier Elementary 60 +/- 1 st graders	May 10 @ 10:00 Tuesday	Townsend KOA	4 – 6
Porter Elementary 60 +/- 4 th graders	May 11 @ 11:00 Wednesday	Metcalf Bottoms picnic area	4 – 6
Alcoa Middle 130 +/- 8 th graders	May 16 @ 9:00 Monday	Townsend KOA	2 – 4
Townsend Elementary 60 +/- 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th graders	May 17 @ 9:00 Wednesday	Townsend KOA	2 (only needed to assist with releases)
Episcopal School 30 +/- 6 th , 7 th graders	May 17 @10:00 Wednesday	Townsend KOA	2
Clayton Bradley 25 +/- 2 nd graders	May 17 @ 12:00 Wednesday	Townsend KOA	4 - 6

New Park Projects on the Slate for 2016

In addition to the work on-stream listed on annual schedule previously distributed, National Park Fisheries can use some help with other work that will be scheduled on a short term basis. This work will mostly be during the work week. A general description of the type of work is attached.

We are preparing a list of volunteers to contact when this work comes up. So if you want to be added to the list, you are not making a commitment to work any particular day. You are just willing to help if your schedule allows.

As always, thank you in advance for all the work many of you have already provided. I hope you will consider helping for this important work being performed in the National Park. If you have any questions, please contact Charlie Chmielewski 865-661-7325

Other NPS Projects for 2016 not on the Schedule:

The National Park Service can use some volunteers for work that is not on the published schedule. Set dates for these projects/collections have not been established and this work will be scheduled on short notice.

The project work involves the following:

Anthony Creek Prep Work - Prior to rainbow trout removals in June, NPS needs to re-verify the upper distribution, lay-in and tag sites, clear some limbs and prep the treatment area for the June electrofishing.

We would like to tackle these items in April and May.

Nationwide mercury in fish study - GRSM will partner with USGS to collect brook trout and smallmouth bass throughout the park to determine mercury levels in fish tissue.

The study started in 2015 collecting mostly in western parks (GRSM sent some fish in), but will focus on eastern parks in 2016. The attached report has data from many western parks and may be of interest to your members who fish out west.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=d57fb21912&view=att&th=153aa21cccdb14d4&attid=0.1&disp=safe&realattid=f_im6ohpll0&zw

E. coli sampling of Horse Concession Areas - For the last 3 years, NPS has been working with the City of Gatlinburg, TDEC and the Smoky Mountain Riding stables to address E. coli issues in the streams near the trail system. In 2016, park management asked us to sample all the riding stables to test levels of E. coli in nearby park streams.

We (NPS Fisheries) will be testing the Cades Cove, Sugarlands and Oconaluftee Riding Stables. Sampling will be during the months of July/August. We will sample once a week for 5 weeks during this time and all the analyses will be done in-house using an innovative technique called Colilert. We are happy to train folks on how to run the analyses.

If you want to help, please let us know which work you are willing to do. We will start a call list of people for the NPS to use on short notice.

Project Healing Waters Volunteers & Boats Needed

The Clinch River Chapter is hosting a number of events for Project Healing Waters on the Clinch River (Miller Island) this spring. We need River Helpers to wade fish with veterans, plus 3 or 4 boats for veterans that can't or prefer not to wade.

The dates are:

April 23-24

May 11

May 28-29

and June 18-19

Please get back to me soon. Be sure to give me the date(s) you can help and if you can bring a drift boat or a power boat. Thank you for your help. You can't imagine how much these outings mean to the veterans. Call me if you have questions. Buzz Buffington 865-304-4623

Some Thoughts on Fly Tying

Mike Bryant

Three Simple Tools

I've been tying flies for close to twenty years. I enjoy tying, but never really concentrated on building my skills until several years ago. The change was born out of thought that elevating my tying proficiencies would improve my overall fly fishing capabilities.

Maybe sometime down the road I'll work on my creativity, but my initial focus was on improving my consistency. That is, when I tie a dozen #14 Parachute Adams, all twelve actually look the same, meaning proportions are correct and the same from fly to fly (the heads are tidy, the posts are the same height, tails or shucks to same length, etc.).

Over the last several years, I found three simple tools that helped to greatly improve my game.

First, make sure your eyesight is good enough to see individual thread wraps of a thin 8/0 thread. Now in my 60's, my eyes just aren't what used to be. I needed help beyond what my bifocals provided. "Cheaters" or cheap reading / magnifying glasses were the answer. Without them I couldn't see the small details on the materials to insure proper placement. The Dollar Store sells reading glasses for a \$1.00. Best investment I ever made. I tried the big 5" magnifying lens that sit on the desk, but I found the lens got in the way. Anyway, invest a dollar and see if it helps.

Secondly, have a handy pack of safety razor blades available. If you want your flies to be consistently good, don't be afraid to take a razor blade to the ones that just don't cut it. When I started this journey of improvement, I took a razor blade to a lot of flies. As my skills improved, I recycled fewer and fewer flies. But I still keep the razor handy. Just yesterday, several of my #18 BWO parachutes didn't quite look right, so out came the razor.

Third, find a way to display the flies you are tying next to each other so you can easily look for inconsistencies. I made a simple wood and foam rod with slits that hold up to 18 flies side by side. Some folks use those electrical clips and a wood stand. Find a way to display your flies so you can see them from all sides and angles. A lot of times I'll wait until the next day when my eyes are fresh to give my new flies a look over.



Anyway, if you're looking for ways to improve your fly tying game, give these ideas some thought.

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