

Trout Unlimited

Little River Chapter



NEXT MEETING

President's Corner

The Little River clean-up was a great success! Thanks to all the volunteers who came out and collected a pick-up truck full of trash. Special thanks to Stan Starkey who cooked this year. His pulled pork with homemade barbeque sauce was outstanding.

After March's meeting, Hatchery Creek in Kentucky is on people's fishing wish list. That meeting went a little long but with all the big fish pictures members enjoyed the presentation.

I have just come back from a steelhead fishing trip to Traverse City, Michigan. It is always fun to fish new water but hard to be successful on new water the first trip. A large Brown trout taught me a new lesson. You may not be snagged on the bottom. Make sure you play your hook set until you are sure it will not move.

Thursday

April 27th

Social Hour begins at 6pm

Meeting at 7pm



April Presentation

Patagonia: One for the Bucket List

South America fishing can seem as far from reach as pegging the Colorado salmon fly hatch, but with proper planning and follow through you can enjoy Patagonia fishing without breaking the bank. The key is to go with reputable recommendations and to secure lodging, guides and travel itineraries months in advance. Hear the triumphs and travails experienced by five of your fellow TU members as they sojourned to the southern Patagonia region of Chubut Province, Argentina to fish the crystal clear rivers and lakes in and around the Los Alerces National Park. You will see the diverse and beautiful geography and hear about the gracious hospitality of the Argentine natives of this region. Oh, and the fishing.... absolutely Freudian (a dream). Presenters are Steve Moore and Dave Ezell with assistance from other partners in crime, Mike Bryant, Charlie Chmielewski and Mark Sollenberger.



SALTWATER REPORT

- MIKE BRYANT

I love saltwater fly fishing second only to chasing trout with the long rod. With retirement comes the gift of time. More time on the water and more definitely more time saltwater fly fishing. With more time, my wife Jan and I now spend a fair amount of the winter in southern Florida, especially in the Everglades / Ten Thousand Islands region. Over the past few years, we quickly evolved from kayaks to a flats-boat that we purchased from Ankona Boats (Ft. Pierce, Fla.) last year. The flatsboat is ideal for fly fishing in skinny, inshore water that hold some great sport fish.

Last year, the fishing in the Everglades / Ten Thousand Island Region was nothing short of awful. Learning to navigate around the oyster bars, coping with the winds and tides, and getting lost in the countless mangrove islands was a huge challenge. And the sport fish I was chasing were gone. This year the fishing was significantly better, though not great. Last year I was learning to manage a flats-boat in wind, tide and treacherous oyster bars. This year I had a bit more confidence, and actually started thinking about when and where to fish given current conditions. I caught a variety of fish including jacks, sea trout, spanish mackerel, and snappers. But I was primarily targeting snook, redfish and tarpon. I did have some shots at tarpon but couldn't entice them into eating my fly. And for whatever reason, all my snook were small. I have no clue where the bigger snook were hiding. I

did manage to boat a 26" redfish, the biggest I've ever caught on a fly rod. This particular day I had been looking for tarpon. After several fruitless hours in the morning, I decided to start pounding the mangroves. I managed to make a good cast with the fly (a baby tarpon fly) sliding under the mangrove limbs and within 6" of the mangrove roots. Hidden up in the mangroves, this nice red was lying right up against the roots and instantly eat the fly when it landed. Jan was with me at the time. She had never netted a fish. So here I am fighting this large red, trying to keep the boat (and fish) out of the mangroves and teaching Jan how to net a fish all at the same time! Well the good news we were able to net the fish. That fish put a smile on my face and is forever a great memory.



I love the challenge of fly fishing. As most of you know, it takes some time to learn how to fish in the mountains and tailwaters in east Tennessee. But I think that saltwater fly fishing is ten times harder. Tides, water temperature, wind and an endless expanse of fishy water can leave you scratching your head. Even when you locate and hook a nice fish, there's a good chance they won't be there tomorrow. But I love it.

Well, I'm back home loving the springtime and happy trout. The saltwater fishing will have to wait until next winter.

Tie 'n lie: The Jim Charlie (A Smoky Mtn classic for late spring and summer)

Jim Charlie Recipe

Hook: Standard dry fly - We will use sizes 14

Thread: Yellow 6/0 or 8/0

Wings: Grizzly – We will be trying cut wings

Tail: Grizzly and ginger hackle fibers

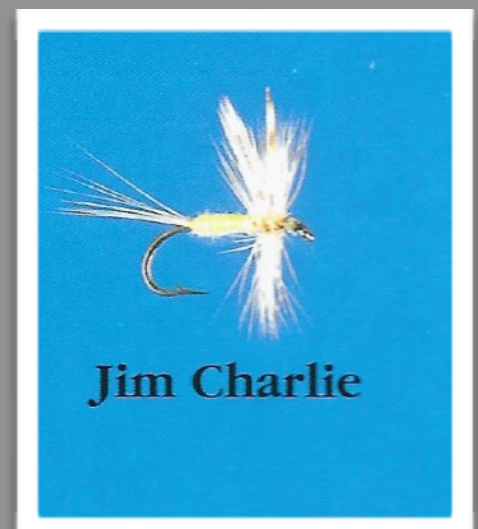
Body: Yellow dry fly dubbing

Hackle: Grizzly and ginger dry fly hackle

We will be meeting at The Casual Pint in Maryville on April 24 from 6 to 8PM.

Hope to see you there!

Photo thanks to the Rutters

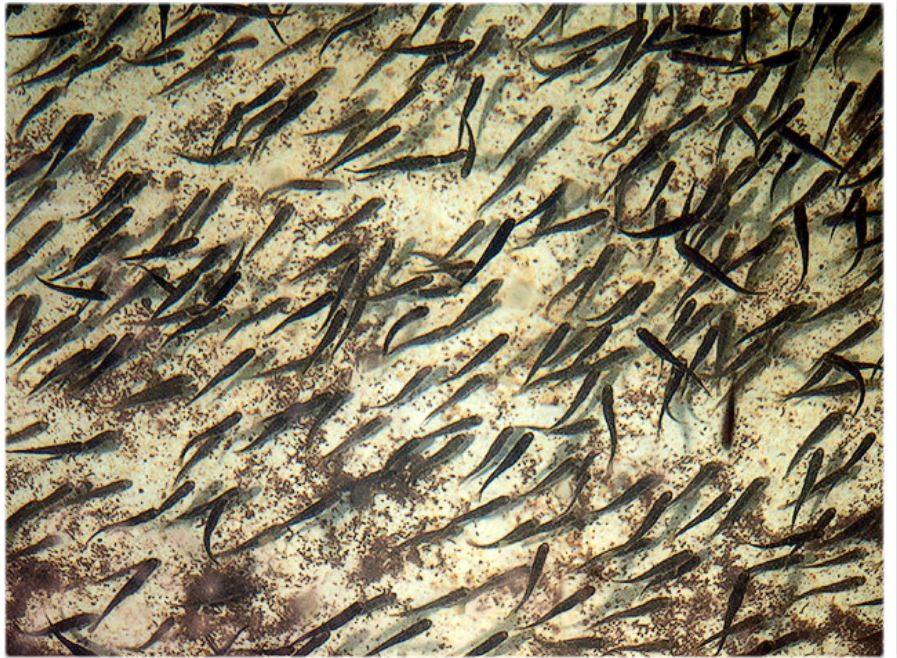


Trout in the Classroom

by Joyce Frey

This has been a very successful season as all of the schools have well over 100 fish in their tanks. The mortality rate for eggs, alevins, and fry was and continues to be very low. We may be able to attribute this to some instructions from the hatchery that once the eggs go into the basket, don't mess with them. That meant leaving any eggs or alevins that did die in the basket, and not to try to remove any fungus that did start to grow.

Unfortunately the same can't be said for our Townsend and Porter Elementary schools experiment with holding fish over from the prior season. Porter lost several fish over the Christmas break and has continued to loose some since. They will have some to release but the students will be sharing those that remain. At this writing, Townsend lost most of their fish this past week. We still don't have all the details, but it appears they won't have any to release. I'm sure one of the other schools will be able to share some of their fish.



Everyone is preparing for releases to Little River at the Townsend KOA within the first three weeks of May. Volunteers will be needed to help with the various programs arranged for the students. In addition to releasing the trout, a water quality testing station, a bug identification station and practice casting session, the Park Service or TWRA will be providing a show and tell of shocked fish from the river.

Below is the preliminary schedule for each of the schools. Once plans are finalized, an email will be sent to the membership. 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.

Attached Spreadsheet available upon request.

“The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad.” -AK Best

Meeting Notes from March

UT Clean-Up Vols of the fly. Join them on Saturday, APRIL 8th for a day committed to cleaning up Knoxville's waterways, fly fishing, and good times! See their Facebook page for more details.

2017 SE Regional Meeting: The Tennessee TU State Council is sponsoring the 2017 SE Regional Meeting in Gatlinburg from April 21-23, 2017. For more specific information go to www.tuseregional2017.org.

TIC Update: Joyce Frey reported that we had a very successful hatch rate this year and all of the tanks are doing well. Releases are being scheduled for the first two weeks of May.

Trout Camp: Steve Young gave an update on 2017 Trout Camp. There are currently sixteen applicants with more on the way. We have received an application from Cordell Rivera. He is an excellent example of someone who should attend. A motion was made from the floor, seconded and approved that we should sponsor Cordell for this years Trout Camp. For additional information contact Steve at steve_y@earthlink.net or go to www.tntroutadventure.org.

Upcoming Trips: The spring trip will be at Elkmont on May 5,6, and 7. Group Site 2. The fall trip will be to Cataloochee on October 6, 7 and 8. Group Site 1

Monthly Presentation: Hatchery Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration Project.

Our guest speaker this month was Brad Redmon of Redmon Fly Fishing. Brad who works for Eco Geo / Ridegwater Corporation was one of the project managers for the Hatchery Creek project and gave us an excellent overview of the project.

The Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources describe the project as follows. Water flowing from the hatchery has over time eroded a gully that funnels undesirable fine sediments into the Cumberland River. Fine sediments and siltation are among the leading sources of impairment to Kentucky waterways and pose a threat to downstream fisheries and aquatic wildlife. Basically the project objective was to design and construct a world class 6000 foot trout stream. The new stream would be home for brook,

brown and rainbow trout. The stream had to also accommodate spawning, egg incubation, fry, juveniles and adult trout for each species.

The project took about two years to complete and "water on" took place in November 2015. Estimated cost was \$1.2 million. Actual project cost came in at \$1.9 million.

For more detailed information on this project refer to the the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources web site at <http://fw.ky.gov/Fish/Pages/Hatchery-Creek-Stream-and-Wetland-Restoration-Project.aspx>.

For information on Redmon Fly Fishing contact Brad at 859-229-3379 or email redmonflyfishing@gmail.com.