

Trout Unlimited

Little River Chapter

UPCOMING MEETING: Tuesday, April 23rd
Barley's in Maryville

Next Mtgs: May 28th & June 25th



A personal note from someone who rarely gets to go fly fishing

Some people think you have to be a fly fisherman to be a member. Nah, not the case, just gotta love the world around us. Trout Unlimited is a way for all of us who love the outdoors to give back, even if just a little. Most of the year I have almost no time left for fly fishing because it's not my primary hobby; my family is! And our family loves the mountains and streams. And we love a little bit of everything out there - short hikes, long hikes, backpacking, photography, fly fishing or fishing with a simple rooster tail, being up for sunrises high in the mountains, checking out the wild flowers, looking at the virgin timber, riding or running the loop, swimming in our secret swimming holes, and tubing the river.



What a crazy rich resource, full of fantastic things, ready for our discovery every time we can squeeze in a few moments for what has been created for us. Let's support it and enjoy it. -Jake

From the Desk of the Prez

Spring is finally here! The Park and the Chapter had a successful clean-up on April 6th. Stan Starkey did the lunch and the pulled pork shoulder was excellent. The Chapter has another **clean-up on May 11th** on our adopted stream **Pistol Creek**.



The chapter is sponsoring two participants in Trout Camp this year, one girl and one boy. If you are interested in volunteering to help at the camp or the outings contact Steve Young and he can help you find the right activity.

We had our first fishing outing yesterday. We met at Little River Outfitters and made our way up to Lynn Camp. The water was high so we went up high. The fishing was great but the catching was a little slow. Pat Tully will be leading the Saturday outing group. He will let us know what date he has chosen. The Wednesday group will meet again in mid-May.

The casting class we are doing with Parks and Rec had our first class on April 6. There are eight students in the class and the class so far seems successful. The next two classes will be on the water at the Duck Pond and on Pistol Creek.

Have a good Spring and get out and fish! -Ernie

— A STORY FROM A MEMBER —

Everyone has a fishing story - please send us yours.

THE BALL, THE BAT AND THE GRAND SLAM

-JIM PARKS

A few years ago, I took a neighbor fishing. He had recently moved next door and as is typical for me, our conversation soon turned to trout fishing and the Smokies. He said he liked fishing and he liked the Smokies but had never fished there. His fishing background consisted of ponds and lakes, mostly Douglas Lake. Over the next few months, I wore him down and removed any inhibitions of trying things with a fly rod in the Smokies. Since he liked to hike, we hiked in a few miles to a likely spot to catch trout.

After showing him the ins and outs of fly fishing for trout in the Smokies, he quickly developed a knack with a fly rod, however he was not skilled at wading, which I told him was an acquired skill developed with many cuts and bruises. Still he caught several trout. I finally felt comfortable to a point that I walked upstream a bit and left a small stack of rocks on a midstream bolder for him to fish up to, then come up to

me. After a while, I did not see him and thought I'd better go find him. As I made my way to the trail, I looked down and saw a baseball. I'm thinking, "How did a baseball get here?" But there it was and in good shape so I put it in my creel.

Up on the trail, I saw him and showed him the baseball that I'd found, and I asked how he'd done. He said, "Did you see that bat?"

"What bat?"

"Let me show you."

He walked me to the spot down on the creek. He showed me a clump of leaves hanging from a piece of fishing line that had broken off on a tree limb. I said, "I remember seeing that as I fished by."

He said, "Yeah, I thought it was a clump of leaves until it moved. Scared the crap outta me!" Then it moved!

What I saw was a small bat that unfolded its wings. It had been hooked by the fly dangling at the bottom of the broken fishing line.



He said, "What are you going to do?"

"Well, I'm not going to let it die a slow death by hanging there. I was born on Halloween and I guess I feel something of a kinship with bats. I'm getting it free." I walked over, placed my net beneath the bat and cut the fishing line, dropping the bat into my net. I then carried it over to a rock and laid it down on its back. I borrowed a set of forceps from my buddy and I took mine. One pair I used to open its mouth. "Man does this thing have teeth!"

"Well don't get bit."

"I don't plan on touching it", I replied as I worked. I took my pair of forceps and found the hook embedded, but not too

deep. Fortunately, the bat was very calm and docile like it was asleep. I was able to pop the fly out with some ease. Though a bit tired and groggy the small bat seemed ok.

We walked away about 30 feet to sit on a rock and ate some peanut butter and honey sandwiches. He said, "Well, we have a baseball and a bat. Maybe we'll find a glove!"

Laughing he proudly showed me some photos of some of the trout he'd caught. He knew what a rainbow was, but he wasn't sure about some of the others. Flipping thru the 9 or 10 photos of small trout he'd caught I realized he had caught a rainbow, a brown, and a brook.

I looked up, smiled and said, "Forget the glove, we have a baseball, a bat, and a grand slam!" After explaining the concept of the Smoky Mountain Grand Slam of trout, we looked over at my net, and the bat was gone. -Jim

Thank you Jim for sharing.

Spring is a magical time in the Smokies!

While you're wading, don't overlook the little gems along the way.



WHO ARE THESE FOLKS ANYWAY??!!

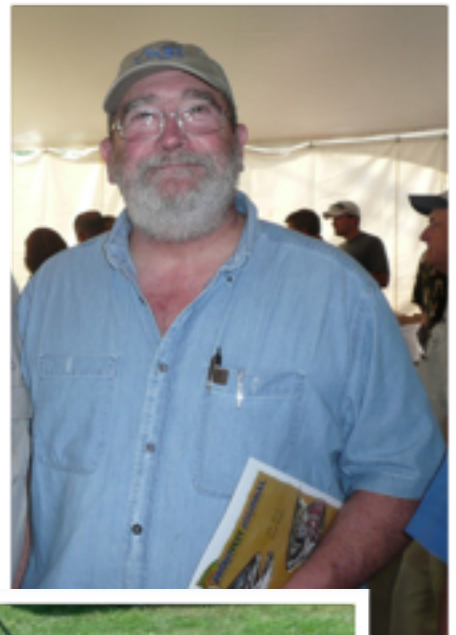
Vol III

By Steve Young

A special thanks to Charity Rutter for supplying names for the 'mystery' Little River Chapter TU members shown in the previous newsletter. For those still 'in the dark' here are the identifications and some anecdotes about the 'next 4 (actually 5)!'.



1. This indeed is Bob Clouser at one of our Trout Fests—he of the 'Clouser Minnow' fly



2. Frank Bryant, the owner/Founder of Chota Outdoor gear.



3. Timmy Doyle (left) and Roy Hawk, a past president of LRCTU (right)



4. Wanda Taylor teaching fly casting at the first ever Trout Fest

TIE 'N LIE: HORNBERG SPECIAL

Tie and Lie in April will be on the 29th. The Casual Pint will be the meeting place and we will start at 6pm.

At Steve Darnell's request, we will be tying the Hornberg Special.

Tie And Lie is always on the last Monday of the month, always at 6pm and always at The Casual Pint in Maryville. The flies will change depending on attendee's requests.

Hope you will join us!



Notes worth reading ...

From the March Meeting:

Date: March 26, 2019

Location: Barley's Maryville

Meeting Type: General Membership

Presiding Officer: Ernie Frey, President

Attendees: General Membership

Agenda:

- Visitors and New Members: Seven members of the Tellico Village Fishing Club attended our March meeting. They expressed an interest in trout fishing and wanted to learn more about our chapter and the opportunities that exist to learn more about trout fishing in our area..

Newspaper Articles: Please consider writing a brief article for the quarterly newsletter. We need articles and pictures. Send your articles to Jack Comstock at lrctu.newsletter@gmail.com.

- Pistol Creek Delayed Harvest: Ernie met with Bart Carter and Jim Habera of TWRA on Friday, March 22nd to survey the Pistol Creek area as a potential delayed harvest site. Dale Jayne the Maryville Stormwater Manager also attended. At this point the project is a GO.Chapter Fishing Outing:
- Fishing Outings: The chapter has decided to start a program of monthly fishing outings. The outings are being planned for a Wednesday and Saturday. The first outing will be held on April 10th at 1:00pm. We will meet at Little River Outfitters and break up into groups. The outings should be about 3 or 4 hours.
- Volunteers: Richard Barnes reminded us of all of the volunteer opportunities that are available this year. For a complete list of those opportunities or to sign up for one of them please contact Richard at canceleer1@gmail.com.
- Little River Cleanup: The Little River Cleanup is now scheduled for Saturday, April 6th. We will meet at Metcalf Bottoms at 9:00am. A free lunch will be provided after the cleanup.
- Fishing Camping Trips: The first fishing camping trip of the year will be held from April 26 to April 28th at the Cades Cove camp sites C47-C50. Saturday night is a pot luck dinner so bring along something to share. For more details contact Pat Tully at ptully04@gmail.com or Larry Davis at ledavis97@gmail.com.
- Tie & Lie: The April Tie&Lie will be held on April 29th at the Casual Pint in Maryville from 6:00 to 8:00pm. This months fly will be the Hornberg.
- Trout in the Classroom: The trout are all doing well and May release dates have been set. They are....

Wednesday May 1 – John Sevier Elementary 3rd graders

Thursday May 2 – Porter Elementary 4th graders

Tuesday May 7 – Townsend Elementary 3rd thru 5th graders

Wednesday May 8 – Tates School 4th graders and Lenoir City Middle 6th graders

Wednesday May 15 – Lonsdale Elementary 5th graders

Thursday May 16 – Episcopal School 3rd graders

Thursday May 30 – Clayton Bradley 2nd graders

If you would like to help with the releases please contact Joyce Frey at jmfrey@comcast.net or 865-518-1975.

Guest Speaker: This months guest speaker was Mike Kesselring. Mike wears many different hats including being the Volunteer Coordinator for the North Carolina side of the park. Mike came to share with us his collection of 10,000+ flies. He has been collecting them for over 35 years.

Mike was introduced to fly fishing in 1966 and like all of us began buying and collecting flies. The big difference is that Mike now has over 10,000 of them. He does not tie, he only buys and collects. Mike brought his fly collection with him and we all had the opportunity to see them all - box after box.

He talked about how the fly tying materials have changed over the years. Mike has some flies that are considered antiques. If you compare those flies to the flies of today you can certainly see what he means.

Mike stores all of his flies in plastic boxes and has really not had any issues with the flies being destroyed by insects. If he suspects that there might be a problem he will expose the flies to moth balls for a short period of time just to be safe.

His favorite flies in his collection are the crawfish and hellgrammite flies. As he wrapped up his presentation, he left us with this on the stream tip. Carry a toothbrush with you and use it to fluff up your flies before using them.