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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

FISHING QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'THE GREATEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE TO ANOTHER FISHERMAN IS TO PUT A GOOD FISH BACK' LEE WULFF

STREAMS OF THOUGHT—NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

ANOTHER WATER PICTURE=FISHING STRIKEOUT SPRING IS HERE

So—by now you may have figured that when I put another water picture up (this one is of Wolff Creek Falls away back in the Cherokee National Forest near an area the TWRA is considering reclaiming for Brook Trout) means I haven't done well in the catchin' department. Right On!! Several tries with less success including at the base of these falls (one success on Tremont was a kinda accident—fly in water not being observed while

negotiating rocks, pull up rod to cast and... FISH ON!!). Even extended to Oregon where we spent some beautiful days with family; on North Umqua, fish hitting surface, many casts and no takes. However, the Dogwood, Redbud, and wildflowers blooming are reminders that spring has sprung despite a possible step back or two in the near future. Fishing will get better I am sure of it!

With spring in the air, I hope y'all can get out and enjoy the nature on our doorstep. There are a couple of opportunities through TU coming up. The Smoky Mountain Chapter is hosting a meet and greet at Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area (see associated article below for details) and we are still planning to have our live meeting at River John's in July. Also, remember the volunteer opportunities in the Park, both those that the Little River Chapter coordinate as well as other VIP programs coordinated by the Park Staff (I myself go out and look at trees as part of the Phenology tracking program—great excuse to get outdoors).



In last month's Newsletter Joyce put together a great summary of Eddie George, a founding member of the Little River Chapter, the namesake of the Chapter Award for the most volunteer hours in the Park during a calendar year, and the originator of the Eddie George Nymph. However, many of us never got to meet or know him. Somehow a picture brings him closer; I have forgotten where I found this (and I am not sure that is a big trout he is holding up) but it reminds me we were all young once and have caught a 'big-un' now and (maybe) again.

Best wishes and tight lines! -- Steve Young

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAMS

(All Online via Zoom—announcements and invites will precede each one)



APRIL 27th 7pm—THE GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE AT TREMONT (GSMIT) BY CATEY MCCLAREY

Catey is the President and CEO of GSMIT and will be updating us on how they are weathering the COVID Storm, plans for the latest land acquisition, and programs for the coming summer.

Catey is a Tennessee native, and made early connections with GSMIT when she attended Tremont Institute in the sixth grade with her school. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Environmental Biology from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. After graduation, she completed an internship with the Fisheries Department in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (any of our long-term Fisheries Volunteers remember that?). She has also hiked 400+ miles of the Appalachian Trail through Virginia. Catey has worked in non-profit administration for nearly 15 years, most notably as SOAR's Chief Financial Officer. She has also served on the board of Conservation Trust of North Carolina and with their Future Leaders Conservancy advisory board. Catey also has CPR, Wilderness First Aid, and PADI Open Water Diver Certifications. She enjoys climbing, paddling and traveling in a restored vintage camper with her two children. (I am sure she is a secret Brook Trout admirer also! 😊)

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER HOSTS 'DAY ON THE WATER' IN GSMNP

Great Smoky Mountain Chapter of TU is hosting a special event on Saturday April 24th, 2021. They are calling it "A DAY on the WATER. It will be held at Metcalf Bottoms Picnic area in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park which is on the Little River Road about half way between Elkmont and the 'Y'. They have reserved the use of the Pavilion there from 9am to 7pm. It will be a day of fishing or just hanging out, rain or shine as the pavilion is roofed and has many tables in the sheltered area. Stop by for a short hello or a long visit. Bring a rod and try some (hopefully) catchin'. They will have soft drinks and water; lunch is on your own. It is a great opportunity to get outdoors, stay socially distanced, see old friends or new in person rather than thru a computer screen, as well as spend some

time in the Park. Hope to see you there!

FLY TIE-A-THON – A OPPORTUNITY TO TIE A BUNCH OF FLIES FOR A GOOD CAUSE.

Some of you out there, despite the COVID shut-in trend, may not have got to tie as many flies as you would like. Here is an opportunity to scratch that itch. The gig goes like this. Tie 100 Flies of particular pattern (They do limit your pattern choice to one of 20 or so) and send them in. The hosting group is the 3 Rivers Fly Fishers of Fort Wayne, Indiana and the contact is Curly Hodson (curly@curlsflyshop.com). The program generates literally thousands of flies (the last count I saw for this year is 2800). All these flies are donated to a particular program that features fly fishing. Past programs that benefited from the Tie-A-Thon included Project Healing Waters, and Casting for Recovery among others. I am particularly interested this year because the beneficiaries of this year's effort are the TU-related Trout Camps across the country of which the John Thurman Smoky Mountains Trout Adventure Camp is one. If you want more information, please go to their website at 3rff.org.

MAY 25th 7:00 pm LRCTU PROGRAM - CYNTHIA HARKNESS, OWNER OF FEARLESS FLY FISHING

Fearless provides adventure travel, educational instruction and guiding for both salt and freshwater fly fishing. It's a fun juggle between the salt for stripers and rivers for trout. Not a bad decision any day of the week, or month in the year. 2021 will be the best year ever. Her website is www.fearlessflyfishing.com and you can find her on Instagram and Facebook as FearlessFlyFishing.

Cynthia Harkness

Fearless Fly Fishing

www.fearlessflyfishing.com

FB: FearlessFlyFishing

Instagram: FearlessFlyFishing

Mobile: 617-784-4880

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

The four schools participating in TIC will be releasing their fish sometime in May. When we have a schedule, we may need some volunteers. If we do, I'll send out a plan as to when and how many we need. This is always one of the most fun activities of the program.

BUGS AND FLIES



The Light Cahill, invented by a New York railroad worker named Daniel Cahill in the 1880's, is one of my favorite flies for the summer. I haven't presented a wet fly yet, so I thought this would be a good one to add to your box for the summer. The following information comes from Flyfisher.com.

Light Cahills will start appearing near the end of April and will be around through the summer months. It is a basic imitation of a Pale Morning Dun or a Pale Evening Dun. The classification of these mayflies has changed numerous times, but for the most part the techniques and methods haven't changed much. The Cahills and namely the Light Cahills have been reclassified. But for our purposes the Light Cahills consist of a number of species from the genera *Maccaffertium*, *Stenacron* and *Stenonema*. The adults vary in color from light cream to orangish cream and vary in size from 12 to 16. The original species considered the prototypical Light Cahill was *Stenonema canadense* which has been reclassified as *Stenacron interpunctatum*. One species, *Stenonema femoratum* is still classified in the genus *Stenonema*. All other related species have been reclassified as *Maccaffertium*. The famed *Stenonema ithaca* is now classified as *Maccaffertium ithaca*. This group now includes other minor and related Cahill members such as *Maccaffertium medipunctatum*, *pulchellum*, and *modestum*.

The nymphs inhabit a variety of water types from medium speed flows to faster stretches. Some species have specific requirements such as *Stenonema femoratum* nymphs which seem to be found in slower stretches than other Light Cahill nymphs.

The Cahills are an evening hatch on most streams. However, on some streams they will come off in the late afternoon. On streams that have more than one species of Cahill you may have many sizes and color variation on the water at the same time.

The duns vary in size from 12 to 16. They often get smaller as the season progresses. The color variation of the different species is from creamy white to creamy orange brown to almost a cream orange sherbert color. This color variation is influenced by the water chemistry of the stream.

The duns can emerge sporadically throughout the afternoon or evening or can come off in a pretty well defined hatch depending upon stream populations. A soft hackle cream in

size 14 fished in the film can be deadly some days. On some streams the duns will ride the water for a long time giving the trout ample opportunity for the take. Usually if the fish are moving around taking flies, they are taking duns. If the trout are stationary with dish like swirls they are taking spinners.

Light Cahill Wet Fly

Hook: 2x long nymph hook, size 14

Thread: Cream UTC 70 Danier

Tail: Wood Duck Flank Feather

Body: Cream Rabbit fur dubbing

Hackle: White or Cream Hen Saddle

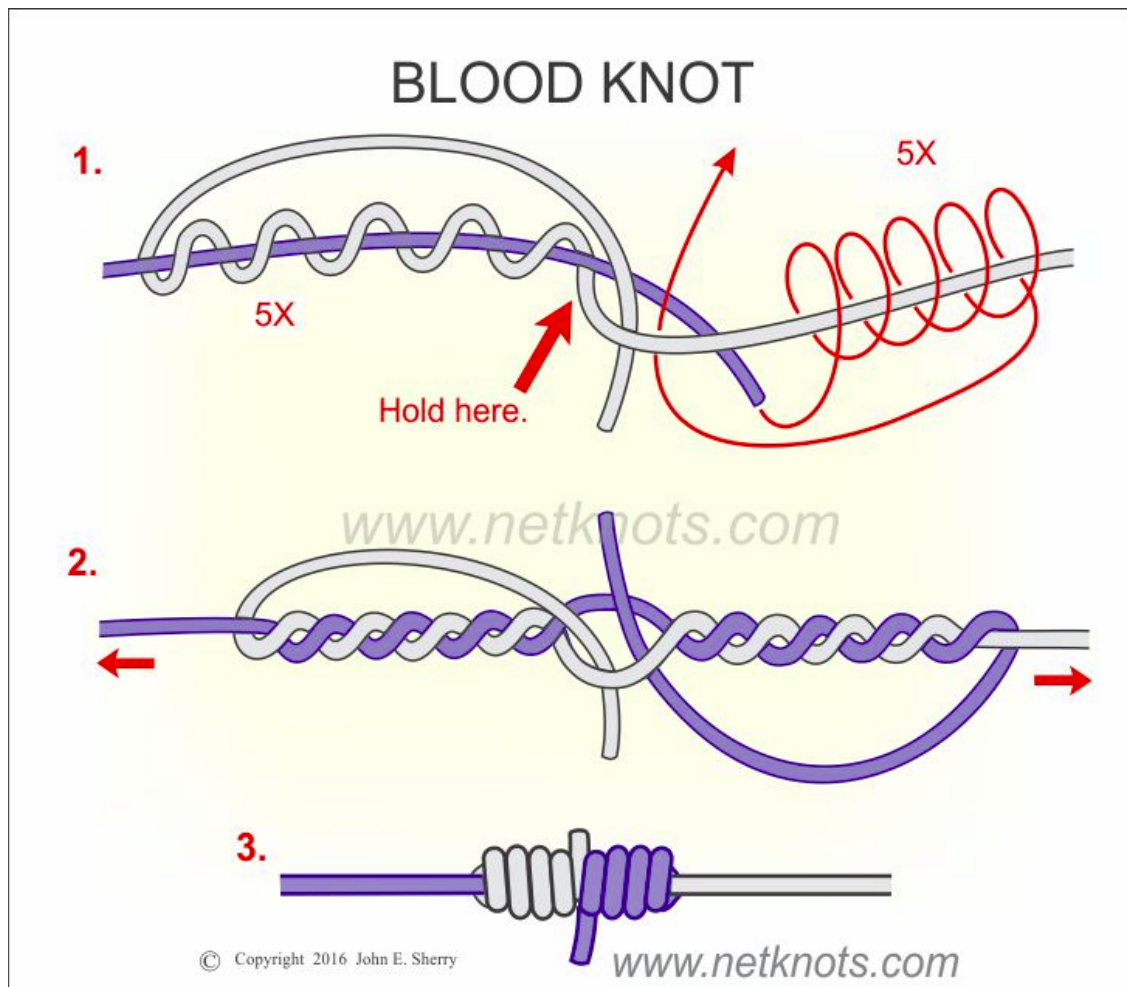
Wing: Wood Duck Flank Feather



KNOTS

The BLOOD KNOT is used for joining two lines together. The strength of the knot is increased by making at least 5 and up to 7 wraps on each side of the knot. It works best with lines of approximately equal diameter. A series of blood knots can be tied in ever decreasing pound strength of leader material, joining segments of 24 inches or so to create a tapered leader.

Why it is called a "Blood Knot" ? The history of the blood knot traces back to the days of sail and a version of it being tied at the ends of whips or cat of nine tails for the purpose of drawing blood. It has also been called a barrel knot at times.



- Overlap ends of lines to be joined. Twist one around the other making 5 turns. Bring tag end back between the two lines.
- Repeat with the other end, wrapping in opposite direction the same number of turns.
- Slowly pull lines in opposite directions. Turns will wrap and gather. Clip ends close to the knot.

OTHER NEWS

In conjunction with Blount County Parks & Rec, Ernie Frey held a casting class on the 17th at the Maryville Greenway. Six folks from 15 to 73 years old participated, 3 men and 3 women. Special thanks to Kim Pouncy and Bill Bolinger for helping out!



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