

Little River Chapter Newsletter

Chapter President / Editor
Joe Hatton

Aug2004
www.lrctu.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the Fourth Thursday Aug the 26, at 7:00 P.M. at Monte Vista Baptist Church at 1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd. in Maryville. The church has an entrance on the opposite side of Hwy 129 between the Bi-Lo and the Co-op Gas station.

Program

This month's program will be a "Fly-Tying Roundtable" in which several tiers will be set up at different tables tying some of their favorite patterns for mountain and tailwater trout. The meeting will be arranged in an open format allowing everyone to "roam" freely, observing the use of different tying methods to create various patterns. This will be a great opportunity to see fly tying first hand of some local patterns as well as standard flies by tiers with over 100 years combined experience in tying trout flies. Currently, the tiers committed to take part are Walter Babb, Tim Doyle, Jack Gregory, Jake Harrison, and Jim Parks. The flies tied will range from dries to nymphs to streamers.

Stream work

September 18-19th: Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Hikes

September 27-29th: Large Stream Sample - Straight Fork, NC

Fishing Picks

By: Ian Rutter

August is usually one of the toughest months of the year to get on fish. Water levels are typically low and fish are often stressed due to tepid water temperatures. This year August has been anything but usual. Water levels have been excellent and unseasonably cool weather has kept the trout happy. In fact, water temperatures in the high country have been in the upper 50's and the larger streams have been in the low to mid 60's. Don't let these conditions fool you into thinking it's April or May though. The large streams are fishing tough, but trout can be caught. Dry flies will work but nymphs are a better bet. The smaller streams are fishing extremely well. Brook trout streams are sometimes the only place to find willing fish in August, but a number of medium to small streams are producing well. Many of the trout in the mountain streams are larger this year than they have been in years. Several seasons of drought combined with spring floods have knocked trout populations down a little. This has left the same amount of food in the stream with few mouths to feed.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

Fishing Pick [FROM PAGE 1] There are still far more fish than anyone could catch but the average fish is a bit bigger and we've seen plenty of fish in the 12" and better range this season.

The largest streams like Tellico River and Little River are fishing tough. Medium size streams or streams with a good bit of white water are still fishing very well. Look to North River, Lynn Camp Prong, West Prong of Little Pigeon, and Porters Creek for the most action. These are reliable dry fly streams but tie on a beadhead if you can't rise a trout to the surface.

This has been a pretty good season for wade fishermen on the tailwaters. The Clinch continues to have favorable schedules on the weekend. Right now you can expect to find fish eating midge larva and pupa along with sow bugs, scuds, and a few sulphur nymphs. Experiment a little to find the pattern of the day and stick with what works. The South Holston and Watauga have had superb schedules for wading. Sulphurs are still hatching on the South Holston. Bring a box full of imitations plus pheasant tail nymphs. Crane flies and caddis are the most obvious things popping up on the Watauga. Fish here are rarely picky and provide a break from tough times on the Clinch and frustration on the South Holston. While the Hiwassee had good schedules for most of the summer, generation has picked up in the past week, leaving this river to those with drift boats or pontoons. Isonychias continue to hatch here and a variety of common dry flies will rise trout. Basic nymph patterns also draw strikes and streamers can provide action for anyone

that wants to do something other than watch a strike indicator.

North Shore Road

From: TN State Council of Trout Unlimited

The controversial North Shore Road would cut through the largest, roadless tract of mountain terrain in the eastern United States. The road would have a devastating effect on the Smokies' resources and represent a huge expenditure of tax dollars.

In order to protect the Smokies, your Tennessee State Council of Trout Unlimited is requesting your help in organizing a letter-writing campaign to stop the North Shore Road and implement the settlement proposed by the Swain County Board of Commissioners.

Please review the following information, make it available to you chapter members and urge them to take action. A sample letter is posted on the www.lrctu.org website. And, although the same letter is better than no letter, encourage members to put their letter in their own words. Enough letters can have a profound impact on the outcome of this issue.

Protect the Smokies -Stop The North Shore Road

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is our most visited national park and is recognized by people around the world as a natural treasure. Unfortunately, there are a number of issues that threaten the park, including air and water pollution as well as urban encroachment.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3]

North Shore Road [FROM PAGE 2]

BACKGROUND

The North Shore Road has been threatening the park since 1943, when the federal government permitted the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to build Fontana Dam, creating Fontana Lake. As part of the government agreement, Swain County, North Carolina, TVA, and the Department of the Interior struck a deal to construct a road along the north shore of Fontana Lake, replacing a road that had been flooded by the dam. The National Park Service halted construction of the North Shore Road in 1962.

HISTORY

The story of the North Shore Road begins in 1943 with an agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the State of North Carolina, and Swain County. The creation of Fontana Lake flooded a number of communities as well as State Road 288. One of the provisions of the agreement was that, contingent upon Congressional funding, DOI would construct a road along the north shore of the reservoir. Since then, North Carolina State Highway 28 has been constructed along the south shore of the lake.

In light of the obsolete nature of the project, as well as the difficulties of building a north shore road, there have been attempts to negotiate a cash settlement with Swain County in lieu of the road. Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) consistently supported construction of the road and blocked each attempt to settle this issue. Representative Charles Taylor (R-NC) made the most recent bid for road construction by successfully attaching a

\$16-million rider to the 2001

Transportation Appropriations Bill. These funds came as a surprise to the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of Transportation as the funding was not requested by either of these agencies. According to an NPS issue paper, the "NPS position has been to settle the claims arising from the 1943 agreement through a cash settlement to Swain County in lieu of the road." In fact, since the 1980s, the General Management Plan for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has documented the NPS decision not to build the road for both economic and environmental reasons.]

Environmental concerns focus on the on the fact that road construction would expose extremely acidic Anakeesta rock to the elements. Anakeesta produces acids and heavy metals that are leached by rainwater into streams, killing aquatic life and destroying the riparian ecosystem. Road construction also has a devastating effect on terrestrial wildlife, especially bears. In addition, the proposed road would cut through the largest, roadless tract of mountain terrain in the eastern United States, destroying the integrity of this remarkable natural resource.

From an economic standpoint the North Shore Road is a boondoggle.

The North Shore Road is unnecessary due to NC State Highway 28.

The road would cut across successive ridges in an area containing crumbling, faulted and unstable rock, which would require extensive cuts and fills. [CONTINUED

ON PAGE 4]

North Shore Road [FROM PAGE 3

Acids and heavy metals leaching from Anakeesta rock would require extensive environmental mitigation. An extremely conservative estimate of the cost of building the road is \$300 million. That figure does not include the cost of planning, design and environmental compliance.

For more information, visit <http://www.northshoreroad.info/>.

UPDATE

A historic opportunity has arisen to provide a cash settlement that would both benefit the people of Swain County and protect the integrity of the park.

On February 11, 2003, the Swain County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution supporting a settlement in lieu of the road. On March 3, 2003, Bryson City passed a similar resolution. All of the signatories of the 1943 agreement are now in a position to modify the terms and to provide a cash settlement to Swain County.

The Swain County Board of Commissioners has been joined by Senators Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), John Edwards (D-NC), and Lamar Alexander (R-TN), as well as local political leaders such as Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe, who have voiced their support for a settlement. In addition, many national, regional, state, and local organizations as well as people across the country recognize that a cash settlement represents a win-win solution to the North Shore Road.

TAKE ACTION

The Department of Interior needs to take advantage of the current opportunity

to settle the decades-old controversy of the North Shore Road. Please take a moment to personalize the following letter posted on our web site www.lrctu.org and ask Secretary Norton to give approval to a new contract implementing the settlement proposed by the Swain County Board of Commissioners.

Mail your letter to the address below

Interior Secretary Gale Norton
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

or email Secretary Norton at gale_norton@ios.doi.gov.

As members of the Little River Chapter it's time to take a stand and let Secretary Norton know our feelings on the North Shore road. Please write your personal letter or use the form letter on our web site. But most of all please send in your opinion on this important matter.

Thanks
Joe

SALMON RECIPES

If you are like me and like Salmon, here is a good website to check out.

<http://www.graysofkilsyth.com/salmonrecipes.htm>



Fly of the Month

Noble Chernobyl

Hook: 2X Dry Fly Hook

Sizes: 4, 6, 8, 10

Thread: black size 6/0

Overbody: Black Flat Tying Foam

Underbody: Red, tan, or golden Flat Tying Foam

Tying Foam: Indicator Yellow Flat Tying Foam

Legs: White Round Rubber Legs

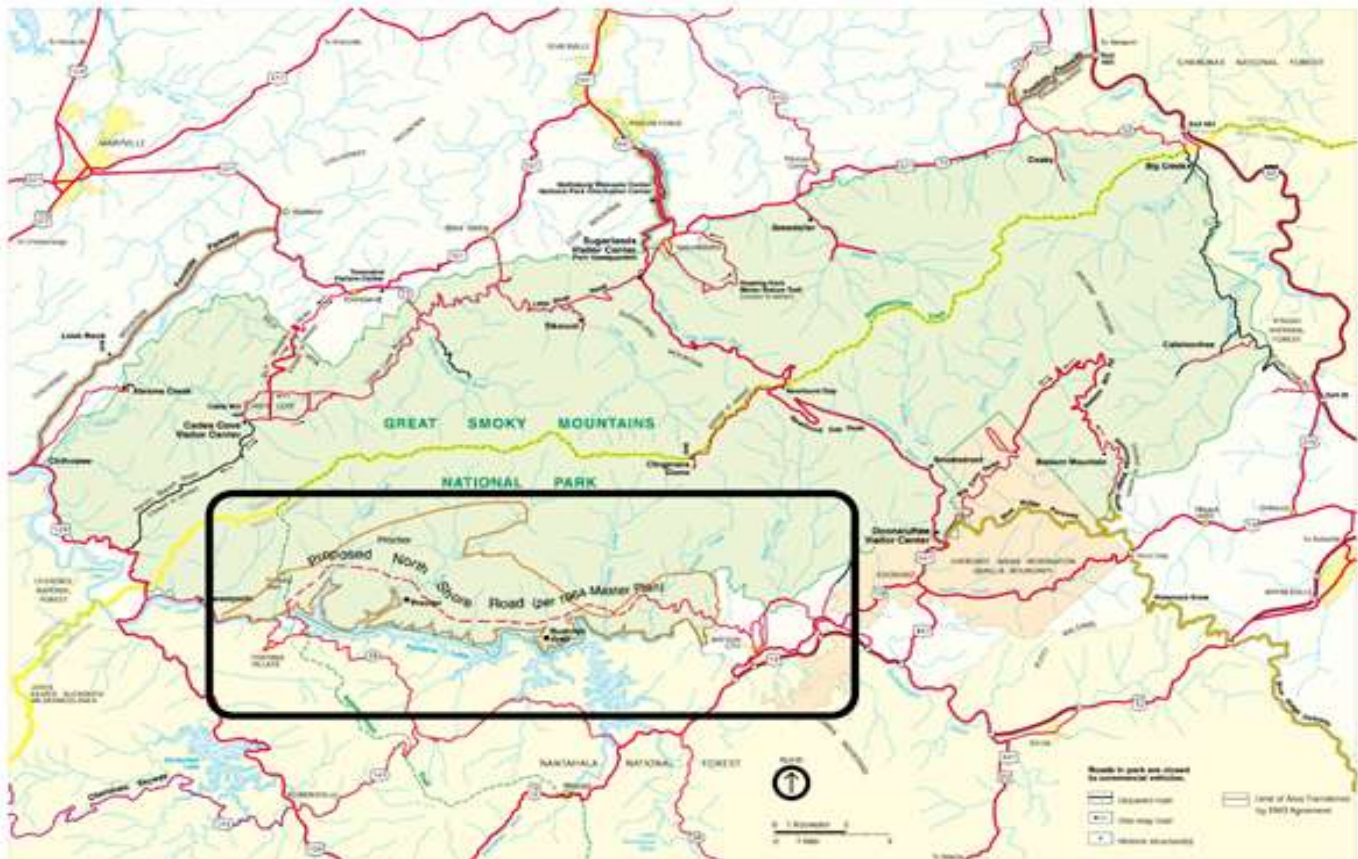
Wing: Cow elk hair

Post: White Para Post

Hackle: Grizzly saddle hackle



PROJECT LOCATION MAP





Joseph T Hatton
4809 Ridgedale Rd
Knoxville, TN 37921

President - Joe Hatton
Vice President - Jim Parks
Secretary - Tom Eustis
Treasurer - Roy Hawk
Newsletter Editor - Joe Hatton
Resource Director - Roy Hawk
Web Page Editor - Roy Hawk

Board Members
Steve Best
Debra Lane
John Skinner
Jeff Hall
Howard Kingsberry
Ian Rutter

Byron Begley
Mark Spangler
Charity Rutter
Maurice Ferguson



Store Hours:

Monday thru Thursday - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday - 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

106 Town Square Drive

P.O. Box 505

Townsend, Tennessee 37882

Phone: (865) 448-9459

Fax: (865) 448-3407

Email: info@littleriveroutfitters.com



6907 Kingston Pike -- Knoxville, TN 37919

588-6159



*Serving East Tennessee for the past 20 years
with products from these fine manufacturers:*

Orvis
Sage
Winston
Simms
Abel
Tibor