

Next Meeting:

Where: Monte Vista Baptist Church
1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd
Maryville, TN 37803-5505
(enter the bldg. from the parking lot)

When: 7:00 p.m., Thurs., August 26

Program: Jim Habera, the Region IV (East Tennessee) coldwater fisheries biologist for Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will speak at our meeting this month. He will address conditions and factors affecting tailwaters, including Norris, S. Holston and Watauga as well as a general report on wild trout populations.

A question and answer period will be provided after the presentation. Having just returned from a 2-week Alaska trip, Jim has promised a few pictures from that adventure.

Board Members Meeting Prior to March Meeting: There will be a short board meeting at 6:15 p.m. prior to the regular meeting. All board members are requested to attend.

Reminder—Next Meeting

Come with your favorite stick and practice flinging flies at the red eye across the stream at River Johns. We'll be holding our annual Fall (we hope) bar-b-que and meeting at River John's Island on September 23 (a full moon, by the way).

Learn casting techniques and try out a variety of rods, and flies while you're there.

LRCTU To Donate \$45 K To Park

Thanks to hard work and at least a thousand volunteer hours, LRCTU will present the GSMNP with \$45,000 from proceeds earned at Troutfest 2010. Rufus King, president of LRCTU, said that \$33,000 of this amount will be earmarked for continued restoration of Lynn Camp Prong as a brook trout only environment and \$12,000 will be given to the Friends of the Smokies organization.

Meanwhile, planning for Troutfest 2011 is already underway with committee members holding their first meeting Sunday, Aug. 15, at Laurel Valley Country Club in Townsend. On tap for next year is our first printed program. Troutfest organizers will be taking a run at presenting sponsors and nearby businesses with an upscale and professional medium to advertise their services and products to Troutfest 2011 attendees. Target sponsors for the program can include realtors, area hotels, restaurants, as well as national gear manufacturers and outfitters.

Given cooperation from our normal field of experts, this year's auction might include a private casting lesson or on stream time with the likes of Lefty Kreh, Joe Humphreys or Bob Clouser. The committee is also looking into methods to streamline the annual banquet auction, making it shorter.

Jack Gregory reported that vendors participating in this year's show were overall pleased with the event and that there is already a waiting list for spots in next year's event.

The committee will be getting some marketing help this year from retired UT marketing professor and LRCTU member Joe Rentz, and Warren Cornelius will be looking into registration/trademarking the Troutfest logo.

Fishing Report

By Byron Begley, Little River Outfitters

This week marks the beginning of a welcome cooling trend that we all have been waiting for. Beginning this week, we'll see highs in the 80's and lows in the 60's. Weather forecasters believe the mercury will drop to 61 degrees this Thursday night. That could mean an actual dip into the 50's in the Townsend valley and the 40's high in the mountains. Ahh, you can almost taste Autumn!

Anglers were active this past weekend. The trout are more active than they have been. Some people are fishing in the lower elevations and doing quite well. Most of them are looking for larger trout in the East Prong of Little River. Water flow is normal. Monday, August 23, Little River was flowing at 115 cubic feet per second (cfs). Median flow for this date is 109 cfs. Cooler water temperatures will equate to better trout fishing especially closer to the valleys. Fishing has been very good high in the mountains due to the cool water. But, we are going to see more angler activity on the rivers and lakes due to cooler water and comfortable conditions.

Dry flies, nymphs and streamers are all working well. If you are fishing the larger rivers, a streamers like a Muddler Minnow might be the ticket. Big nymphs might be as good or better. In the riffles and runs a dry fly will work. Pick a small Yellow Stimulator, beetle or Yellow Elk Hair Caddis. Drop a small nymph or inchworm off the dry.

Last night I did figure out how to tie a Puglisi Shad Minnow with a marabou tail. Jack was talking about trying that a few weeks ago. I don't know if he has worked on the fly. I think this will be a killer smallmouth, trout and striper fly.

Tremont To Host 2011 Trout Camp

LRCTU will be busy next summer helping with the first **Summer 2011 Great Smoky Mountain Aquatic Biology and Trout Fishing Adventure**. Trout Unlimited Tennessee Council is moving ahead with the camp to provide 12 youth, ages 12-14, learn and experience fly fishing in the GSNP.

The camp will be held at the Tremont Institute June 19 -24, 2011. Attendees will come through a selection/nomination process at each Tennessee TU chapter. In the past, LRCTU has provided a scholarship to a youth who attended North Carolina's TU camp.

Tuition for the camp is expected to cost \$465 per person with families of attendees providing at least \$100 of that cost.

Volunteers needed: Two Trout Unlimited members will need to be on site with kids for the week. Chaperones must have CPR and first aid training. TU Council will cover chaperone tuition cost, which will be \$465.

In addition there will be the opportunity for TU chapter members to help with teaching casting, stream biology and fly tying. TU will need to provide six experienced mountain fly fishers for four trout fishing outings (on Middle Prong of Little River). Each mentor will instruct two kids. Six TU mentors will also be needed to instruct two kids each in four fly tying sessions. Mentors will be needed on-site only for these events.

Along with help from TU National, Tennessee TU Council will provide a Van for transportation, waders, reels, rods and fly line.

Call for submissions!!! Our chapter will be responsible for providing enough candidates to select a primary and two alternates for the camp. Be thinking of a deserving candidate for this upcoming opportunity.

Fishing The Little T

An overnight with friends in Robbinsville, NC, provided the opportunity to fish the headwaters of the Little Tennessee River. The Little T is a veritable playground for feisty smallmouth bass. The river begins in the mountains above Franklin, NC, and, although modest at its start, it rapidly increases volume and size as it flows towards its confluence with Fontana Lake.

My friend, Clark, and I elected to kayak fish a 4.5 mile section of the river, putting in on Saturday, Aug., 7, at about 7:00 a.m. and floating north toward Fontana for the next 5 hours. From Hwy 28, which skirts the SW end of Fontana Lake, we went right on Needmore Rd., which runs into the river about 2 miles from its junction with Hwy. 28. Although it turns into gravel, the road is well maintained and follows the banks of the Little T for several miles.

This trip, we elected to do our own thing, but Jim Porter, a local guide, was helpful with a suggestion to use Smokey Mountain Outfitters and Fish Camp, by putting in at one of their camps on the river above Franklin and floating down to one of several camps that they operate down river. They will also portage you to and fro (reach them at 828-369-5295; ask for Jerry).

Our target was to fish and be off the river before the midday heat. The Little T is between 30 and 50 yards wide in this section and was flowing at about 3 mph, we figured. There was slight color to the water, but not enough to be a disadvantage. Although wide, the river flows shallow and has many shoals.

Anxious to wet lines, we got out of our boats for the first time not 80 yards below the put in. Within minutes, Clark was testing his reel's drag on a fish that seemed hell bent to be anywhere other than the end of Clark's line. Although smallmouth on the Little River, back in Tennessee can seem like dynamite on the end of a stick, this fish was a Claymore loaded with plastique. It fought the light tackle gallantly, but was eventually netted and released. Our trip continued with several more like encounters. The fish I caught were smaller in stature, which is the typical catch on the Little T, but fought like smallies twice their weight. We fished both fly rods and spinning tackle and that day, the spinning tackle produced more fish. I caught two small fish on the fly with a crawfish pattern and one with a Clouser minnow.

A couple of reasons for the mighty might stature and fight of these fish, I will attribute to the river flow and the lack of fishing pressure. There was very little pocket water. I had brought an assortment of poppers, hoping to put

them to use, but never got the opportunity. We saw two anglers on the banks, but that was it for the trip.

This venture ended too soon as we tackled more river than the time we allotted. With the number of shoals packed into that section of the river, we should have planned for 2 miles instead of 4.5. We noted that the water was rapidly coloring as we reached the take-



out. After loading the boats and returning to the vehicle left behind up river, we saw the water was opaque and would have been hard to fish. Although it hadn't rained on us, we learned that an overnight thunderstorm somewhere in the mountains

above was catching up to our position downstream. So good timing for a change!

Just a note here for anyone considering small craft fishing: This trip, I experienced the joy and pain of fishing from both a Sit On Top versus a Sit Inside craft. My friend Clark used a 10-foot long Wilderness Systems Tarpon 100 (sit on top) kayak and I fished from a (sit inside) Old Town Predator Kayak the same length. Although the Predator has been great for Little River fishing, I found it lacking for the trip down the Little T. In the Tarpon, Clark was able to navigate the shallow shoals much more easily. Too many times, I was dragging tail or clamoring out of the Predator as he merrily floated by. Also, the sit on top is much easier to get in and out of... (age is a cruel mentor).

Giving the Predator its due, the sit inside provides easier upstream navigation (tracks better) and does provide some protection from water, a plus during winter fishing.

Tight Lines: Dave Ezell

The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a Non-Profit Volunteer Organization that is Committed to Protecting and Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and Around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park



Thanks to all of you who worked on Troutfest. Great Job!

And thanks for attending, supporting and donating to Troutfest. Together we have made a difference that we can all be proud of forever.

Little River Outfitters

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Stop by or call about our monthly fishing seminars, schools and tying classes

Free casting lessons Saturday mornings from 9am to 10am.
Fall Orvis Days this year will be October 1st through the 12th.

Orvis Donates \$5K to Park

Orvis Corporation has donated \$5,000 to the Friends of the Smokies to be used toward restoration of Lynn Camp Prong in making it a mid-level brook trout only stream.

The Orvis Company donates 5% of profits to conservation annually, an effort widely embraced by Orvis employees.