

Little River Chapter

Newsletter

Aug 2002

Editor Joe Hatton



<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/Littlerivertu/index.html>

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the **fourth** Thursday August, 22 at 7:00 pm. We are meeting 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 BiLo and the Co-op Gas station.

Program

Scott Roger, the proprietor of "The Creel" fly fishing shop in Knoxville will be presenting a slide show on tailwater fishing in East Tennessee and the southeast. Scott has been traveling around the southeast pulling and fishing from his own drift boat for many years. He has one of most in-depth knowledge of tailwater fishing of any one from this area. If you are thinking of doing some tailwater trout fishing anytime soon this meeting is one you will not want to miss.

Stream work

This is a great time of the year to get out on a stream and get knee deep in our conservation work. Places and times will be posted on our web site.

September 20 - 22 Abrams Creek Large Stream Monitoring

September 26 - 28 Little River Large Stream Monitoring

October 9 - 12 Cataloochee Creek Large Stream Monitoring

November 16 - 17 Quarterly Acid Deposition Sample

Fishing Picks

By: Ian Rutter, The recent dry spell and above average temperatures have made it hard to find cooperative trout in mountain streams. The most important thing to look for is good, cold water. The highest elevation streams will have the best temperatures, but a thermometer is a handy item to keep the guesswork to a minimum. The best water temperatures will be at or below 65 degrees. Most lower elevation streams like Little River will be closer to 70. The best bets will be Little River and Fish Camp Prong above Elkmont, headwater streams of the Oconaluftee, and Big Creek upstream of the campground. Down around Tellico River good streams to try are Sycamore Creek and Bald River upstream of the the gravel road at Holly Flats.

Another option to consider if the trout fishing is too slow for you is to try casting for smallmouth bass. Smallmouth are common in the lower sections of many of our favorite trout streams. Little River up to Meigs Falls has a surprising number of smallies and Abrams Creek from Little Bottoms down to Chilhowee Lake is chock full. The lowest mile of Middle Prong of Little River is also a good place to keep in mind. Tellico River up to around Bald River Falls is another good place to try. Look for water that would generally hold trout. (continued on page two)

Fishing picks (continued from page one)

While smallmouth typically prefer slower waters, they are often found in rapids this time of year.

Smallies are every bit as aware as trout, but they may not seem that way. Wading too close will usually spook trout and they will flush. Smallmouth bass may just turn around and watch you. While they might not run away, chances are they won't bite either.

Hopper patterns and Chernobyl Ants are dry flies that do remarkably well when fished in riffles or pockets. Clouser Minnows, Mud-lders, and Woolly Buggers are excellent streamer patterns. Nymphs are among the least fished patterns in our area but can be the most effective. All patterns used for trout will work, but lean toward larger sizes remembering that hellgrammites are among their favorite foods. Stonefly patterns will suffice. If all else fails, a #1 Mepps spinner retrieved from rough water should entice a few strikes.

NRB Futures committee

The following was taken the draft of recommendations by the NRB Futures committee. It is *A Strategic Plan for Strengthening Trout Unlimited's*

Grassroots Organizational and Leadership Capacity and has a dramatic impact on TU State Councils and the whole structure of Trout Unlimited. These are very exciting recommendations that should be presented to TU National Board of Trustee in Sept. or Oct. for approval. If anyone would like to see the full proposal please contact Tom Eustis.

Summary of Draft Recommendations

The NRB Futures Committee's recommendations break down into seven broad categories:

I. Adapt and strengthen TU's national leadership body (currently the NRB)

- Change the make-up and charge of the national body
- Eliminate formal geographical regions and the Regional Vice President positions

II. Give state councils a greater role in national leadership.

- Establish National Leadership Council (NLC) composed of state council representatives
- Expand national leadership body charge to including setting, helping prioritize and helping implement TU's National Conservation Agenda, including organizational coordination and development

III. Increase effectiveness of grassroots representation on the Board of Trustees

- All Trustees to have equal standing (grassroots no longer ex-officio)
- Establish criteria to attract "best of the best" for national service
- Draw directly on the broadest possible pool of grassroots leadership talent by including chapter and council leaders.

IV. Strengthen National TU's support for all state councils

- Leadership training and other technical support
- Financial support and incentives

V. Further empower identified state councils with staffing resources

- Collaborative state/national enterprises
- Targeted, carefully phased-in approach that takes place over time, and is based on sound business criteria and plans

VI. Provide framework for issue-based coordination and collaboration among states

- Flexible, *ad hoc* "regional" boundaries, based on conservation or organizational needs
- Technical and financial support

VII. Proposed timeline and transition process

Stream Side Courtesy

This something all of us need to remember.

Every Angler should bring three essentials to streamside expeditions: Courtesy, consideration and common sense. In brief, observing the rules of fly fishing etiquette makes the experience pleasurable for all that share the water. A section of water belongs to the first person fishing it. It is inconsiderate to crowd.

- A slow moving or stationary fisherman has a right to remain where he is. If you are moving, leave the water and quietly walk around him.
- If a fisherman is resting a pool or planning his next move, it is still his water. Don't jump in with out his permission.
- A fisherman working upstream has the right of way over a fisherman working down stream.
- Always yield to another angler that has a fish on the line. Don't enter the water directly in front of another fisherman.
- Many streams flow through private property. Recognize that access is a privilege, not a right. If unsure about access ask the landowner. On farms, don't trample crops, disturb livestock or leave gates open.
- Use visible trails and paths when present.
- Wade only when necessary. The aquatic food chain is fragile, avoid the redds of spawning fish.
- Don't litter. Pick up discarded monofilament, cans and trash and carry it out with you to be disposed of properly.
- Practice Catch and Release. A creel limit is not a quota.

- Fly fishing courtesy also includes such commonplace observances as familiarizing yourself with local and state fishing regulations, slowing down in dusty parking lots, leaving pets at home, and forgoing loud noises.
- Fishing on salt water flats: pole or wade only. Use the motor to cross deeper water.
- Do Not duplicate without written permission from **NC Anglers & Outfitters**

Fly of the Month

Inchworm nymph

The Inchworm is one of the easiest flies to tie. You can fish them as a dry fly or as a nymph. I think in the park the nymph version works best. Fish them just like nymphs except when the fly gets to the end of a run let the fly land on the river bottom and sit for a few seconds. A lot of the time this is when a trout will come over and pick the fly up. In a clear mountain stream the fluorescent green body is very visible. This a great fly to start your kids tying on. When learning to tie flies.

Hook: 3X long nymph hooks 8-14

Body: small or medium fluorescent green Chenille

Head: Back thread, built up and cover with head cement





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