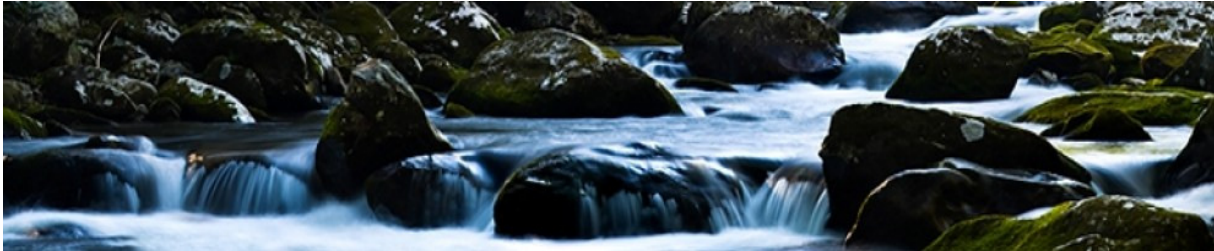


# Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

August 2014 Newsletter



## President's Corner

Mike Bryant ([mjbryant1954@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbryant1954@hotmail.com))

I am very much a warm weather person. Winter and cold weather have never been my favorite time of year. I credit that to my mother who grew up in the South. I'll take shorts and t-shirts over long pants and fleece any day. Said another way I'll take wet wading in the Park over waders. Fishing in the Park has had its ups and downs this spring and summer. Earlier the lack of rain dropped the water levels and raised water temperatures, forcing a change in my fishing tactics and locations. Recent late July rains have raised the water levels to a healthy state, and fishing can be quite good. Even with slow fishing, I never grow tired of being in the Park. We are so blessed to have these great natural resources in our backyard. I hope you will take the time to visit, explore and fish there. Most folks would give their eye teeth to have what we have, so I encourage you to take some time to visit. Better yet, take a child and help build tomorrow's conservation leaders.

Our chapter continues to be busy this summer. Volunteers have been helping Matt and Park employees with sampling and electroshocking. I joined over 100 volunteers help clean the Clinch River last month. The event was organized by the Clinch River Chapter. I was part of the tire cleanup crew that removed over 300 tires that day and personally removed four large truck brake rotors. Go figure! I guess it's in my DNA, but I have never understood why people litter. Anyway, I'm glad we have the opportunity to find ways to preserve and restore our natural treasures, even if others don't appreciate what we have.

We had another great monthly meeting at River John's again this year. Other than a brief shower, the weather was good. Many thanks to Ross Schweinforth for conducting

a casting class prior to dinner. All the feedback from the students was positive. If you flyfish the most important skill to learn is a casting.

Many thanks to Ross – it's one thing to be a good caster, it is an entirely different deal to have the capability to teach someone to how to cast. It's a gift and Ross has this gift. And what can I say, Outdoor Chef Extraordinaire Mike McKinsey and his help provided yet another outstanding meal at River John's. Thanks Mike!!!



There are some cool fall events coming up that you will want to check in this newsletter.

Finally, our next monthly meeting is on Thursday, August 28 at Calhoun's in Maryville. Dave Knapp will be our featured speaker. Many of you know Dave and know of his fishing and guiding abilities. Dave will discuss fishing opportunities and tactics in Colorado.

I hope you can make the August meeting, attend one or more of the upcoming events and give some thought to how you can help by donating your time and talents.

Be safe.

-Mike

## Guide David Knapp to Talk About CO Fishing at Aug Meeting

Our August 28, 2014, meeting will be once again at Calhoun's Restaurant, located at 751 Watkins, Maryville, in the Kroger, Target shopping center. We will gather from 6-7PM for fellowship and dinner (dinner not required), with a brief business meeting at 7PM followed by a presentation by well traveled David Knapp.



David Knapp grew up fishing the waters of middle and eastern Tennessee, especially the waters of the Great Smoky Mountains. By the late '90s, he was delving into the tailwater game, learning the ins and outs of fishing midges

and other bugs that are especially prevalent on rivers like the Caney Fork and Clinch.

Starting in 2004, David has spent a considerable amount of time around the western United States, fishing in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. In 2012, he moved to Colorado for a year and a half which allowed him to continue to gain additional skills and learn some new techniques from seasoned Rocky Mountain anglers. Now, David has moved back to his home state of Tennessee and is guiding in the Great Smoky Mountains as well as on area tailwaters.

Colorado offers a wide variety of fishing opportunities, from high alpine lakes above tree line to meandering meadow streams, deep canyon tailwaters to rich freestone rivers, and everything in between, Colorado has it all, if you are a trout fisherman that is. Join David Knapp as he highlights some of the great trout fishing the state has as well as the incredible scenic beauty that might just make you take your eye off of the river long enough to miss a few strikes. In particular, David will talk about the Gunnison basin, the upper forks of the South Platte, and Rocky Mountain National Park.

## Smokemont Fishing Trip

The September fishing trip to Smokemont camp grounds is planned for the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. The chapter has reserved group site #2. This is a tent only, nonelectric site and has space for 20 campers. Check-in time is scheduled for 1:00 pm Friday September 19 and check-out is required by 12:00 pm Sunday September 21. If you don't wish to tent camp, then you will need to make arrangement for a camp site through Recreation.gov.



There is a firewood quarantine in the park so fire wood should not be brought into the park unless it is approved by the park.

If you fish outside the park, you will need a NC fishing license or a Cherokee Nation permit if you are on the reservation. There is some interesting fishing on the reservation.

There will be a Saturday night dinner so plan on bringing your favorite camping covered dish, other meals you will need to provide for yourself.

The next planned trip will be a trip to Ohio for the Steelhead run. This will be weather dependent. There needs to be good rainfall to increase the flow in the rivers to bring the fish in for the run so we will be watching the river levels.

We are currently thinking about Mentor, Ohio as our base. It is centrally located in the fishable rivers. Will have more about this trip in the next newsletter.

- Ernie Frey  
[ernest.frey@comcast.net](mailto:ernest.frey@comcast.net)



## TOWNSEND TYING EVENT UPCOMING

A fly tying event is being planned at the Tremont Lodge and Resort in Townsend on November 8 & 9. Byron Begley of the Little River Outfitters is working the details. It will showcase great local, regional and national renowned fly tyers. One of the tyers rumored to be there will be Scott Sanchez, Colorado-based author of several books on tying and fly fishing: <http://highcountryflies.com/shop/our-staff/>. The event will be free and our Little River Chapter will have a booth as well. So mark your calendars.

## Further Casting Instruction Available

At the LRCTU picnic, introduction to fly casting class with Ross Schweinforth, many of you were interested in a longer more in depth program. On Thursday, August 14, 2014, Ross Schweinforth is willing to provide us with an all day program from 9am-3pm at The Athens Regional Park off I-75. This class will help each of us get to that next level in our fly casting. This is a \$485 class, Ross is willing to give us a 20% Vet discount and a 20% LRCTU discount, bringing your cost to \$48 for the entire day.

We are very please to have Ross Schweinforth teach this workshop. Ross has the background and top-shelf credentials to provide excellent instruction. He is a certified Casting Instructor with the International Fly Fishing Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF), the premier organization dedicated to excellence in fly-casting instruction through rigorous

examination, continuing education, and strict standards. Ross has been actively involved with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) and serves as the PHWFF Program Lead for SE Tennessee and-NW Georgia.

If you are interested in attending, please Email me ASAP Chuck James at [chuck3185@gmail.com](mailto:chuck3185@gmail.com) (There are only 2 openings). A deposit of \$30 is required to save your space. Once you confirm you are going to attend I will provide you with the address to mail your check. After this class you will be much more confident in your fly casting. We look forward to hearing from you.

**-Chuck James**  
[Chuck3185@gmail.com](mailto:Chuck3185@gmail.com)  
(865) 458-6904

## Fishing Abrams' Shoe

Last month, Ken Wade and I fished the Horseshoe of Abrams Creek. I'm somewhat embarrassed to say this was my first time to fish this well-known part of Abrams. I have the usual excuses, but I knew this was a stream that I wouldn't fish by myself and requires an all-day effort. Ken and I met at the parking lot of the Abrams Creek trailhead at 7:00am.

After walking on the trail for more than twenty minutes, we put in and started fishing upstream. Given that the stream separates from the trail, once you start you are committed. I'm used to fishing many streams in the Park and have plenty of experience navigating on and around slippery rocks. But Abrams proved to be the hardest, most difficult stream I've waded in some time. You definitely a wading staff. The limestone plates thrust up at an angle combined with lots of algae makes for treacherous wading. I would say that both Ken and I are in good physical shape, but we were worn out after a very long day of wading and fishing.

The fishing was great. We caught more rainbows than we could count. The fish were bigger on average than the fish I typically catch on other Park streams. Probably the most memorable fish was the one I didn't catch. Ken was fishing behind me on the opposite side. I approach a small pocket of water probably three feet deep. I had a #16 CDC & Elk Caddis pattern tied on and threw a straight upstream cast just downstream of the foamy white water. Suddenly a rather large rainbow leaped completely out of the water trying to inhale my fly. He was so large that when he landed on his side it sounded like a kid doing a belly flop off the high board in a swimming pool. I was so surprised that I involuntarily yelled "WOW".

I just stood there for a minute trying to collect myself and my fly, grinning from ear to ear. Ken had a small nymph tied on so I motioned for him to come up fish the hole after resting it for a couple of minutes. On his first cast that same hog of a fish eats his fly and puts a serious bend in his rod. The fish broke off after a couple of seconds. Ken and I laughed on moved on. But we remember where the fish lives! We'll be back.

The other memorable moment came after I had released a nice rainbow. Just as I looked upstream, I saw a momma black bear with two small cubs crossing the stream on a fallen tree. The bears were no more than 25-30 yards upstream. Momma bear glanced at me a couple times as she kept her cubs moving along to the stream bank. It would have been a great picture, but as usual my camera was buried in my belly bag. It was a great day of fishing and being out in the Park. It's a beautiful stream. But everything I read and heard about Abrams was true – be prepared for a long day of fishing and difficult wading. I made it home around 8:00pm. I think I was sound asleep by 9:45pm.

– Mike Bryant

## Didymo Update

Based on a \$10,000 grant awarded last year by the Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited, Tennessee Tech University's Justin Murdock is conducting a study to determine the distribution of Didymo (Rock Snot) in our eastern Tennessee region.



*Didymosphenia geminata* (Didymo) is an invasive single-cell alga (a diatom) that can form large blooms in streams that completely cover the stream bottom. Since the early 1990's, Didymo has progressively increased its U.S. range. There is strong concern that Didymo may reduce the quality of fish populations and subsequently harm trout fisheries.

Justin and his team are surveying tailwaters, the Little Tennessee watershed and GSMNP streams. The team is in the middle of a two year study. Visual investigations, rock scrapings, and drift net sampling are made at each site.

### Initial learnings:

- No Didymo has been found in GSMNP or the Little Tennessee River sites
- Didymo was found in the Clinch, South Holston, and Watauga rivers. No Didymo was found in the Holston below Cherokee Dam.
- Didymo was very abundant and had formed thick mats in the South Holston and Watauga.
- Didymo was most abundant nearest the dams, and tended to decrease in abundance with distance downstream.
- The team has noticed a relationship among Didymo, pH, and conductivity (dissolved ion content). Streams with lower pH and conductivity had a lower abundance of Didymo.

In addition to the above work, the team is also conducting a gear disinfection protocol study to determine the effectiveness of several easily accessible disinfection solutions, including bleach, vinegar, liquid detergent, Virkon disinfectant, and salt.

## Jan's Watermelon Salad Recipe

Jan brought a Watermelon Salad to share at the monthly meeting at River John's. It's a great summer salad – cool, tasty and refreshing. Folks asked for the recipe, so here it is: Watermelon Salad with Feta; Total Time: 20 MIN; Serves: 4

The combination of sweet [watermelon](#), salty olives and creamy feta makes this [salad](#) from cookbook author [Melissa Clark](#) addictive.

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 1/2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon harissa or other hot sauce
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 1/2 pounds seedless watermelon, rind removed, fruit sliced 1/4 inch thick
- 1/2 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 1/4 cup pitted Moroccan or other oil-cured black olives, coarsely chopped
- 2 ounces feta cheese, crumbled (about 1/2 cup)



Directions: In a small bowl, whisk the olive oil with the lemon juice and harissa and season with salt and pepper. Arrange the watermelon slices on a platter and sprinkle with the onion, parsley, olives and feta. Drizzle the dressing on top and serve.

## 'Women on the Water' - A Free Seminar

A free special event for women interested in learning to fly fish, will be held on Saturday, September 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required to ensure plentiful supplies of food and gear -- to sign up, contact Melissa Maples-Harrell at [tleo2008@live.com](mailto:tleo2008@live.com) or (865) 804-5491.

After the instruction, Clinch River Chapter members will volunteer as guides, taking participants into the river to fish using the skills they will have learned.

It's all free, lunch will be included and fishing equipment will be available for participants who don't have their own.

Topics covered will include:

- \* **Fly fishing equipment:** rods, reels, lines, waders/boots, vest, fly box, clothes, sunglasses and other accessories
- \* **Wading safety**
- \* **Knot tying** (Clinch knot, nail knot, surgeon's knot, tying on a fly)
- \* **Entomology** (study of bugs trout like to eat, including mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies and midges)
- \* **Fly casting mechanics** (roll cast, overhead cast, side cast)
- \* **Fishing techniques** (reading water, where to fish, catch and release)
- \* **Environment** (leave no trace, river etiquette)

**The Little River Chapter Trout Unlimited Newsletter is produced for current members. Please ensure that you have a viable email address on file with your membership information at Trout Unlimited. You can add an email address or update your current email at [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) or call 1-800-834-2419.**

**Note: Anyone with news, such as an event or account of a fishing trip, etc., please send it along to newsletter editor, Dave Ezell [ezop@charter.net](mailto:ezop@charter.net)**

**Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website [www.lrctu.org](http://www.lrctu.org)**