

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

August 2015 Newsletter



President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

Out of the corner of my eye, I caught just the slightest movement in the water. I froze and tried to focus into the water. The fish finally gave up its position when it rose to eat something on the surface. I patiently waited and watched the trout slide over a couple of inches and eat again. I slowly backed up and worked myself into position for a decent cast upstream. The fly landed a couple of feet upstream of the fish and gently floated down the small run. The trout adjusted, eat the fly and went nuts after feeling the bite of the hook. A minute later I released a beautiful rainbow. The day had started slow with few takes or rises aimed at my CDC & Elk Caddis pattern. But after about an hour in the stream I noticed some small mayflies coming of the water. I switched to a #16 Parachute Adams and proceeded to have a great mid-day of dry fly fishing, mostly sight casting to rainbows and brookies in this high mountain stream. It was a nice change after some rather slow fishing trips in the Park this summer. After the small hatch was over and the fish started to ignore the Adams, I switched to a #16 Perfect Ant pattern and continued to catch some beautiful brookies through the afternoon. All in all, a great day to be out in the Park.

For those who couldn't make the July outdoor meeting, you missed a good time. The weather was not cooperative in the afternoon, but nearly thirty folks from the Little River and the Great Smoky Mountain Chapters showed up. The weather cleared and I didn't burn down any buildings cooking on the grill.

At the upcoming August meeting, you will have the opportunity to buy some fly tying materials and tools. As we have reported, Ken Henderson is in a nursing care facility. He was one of the founding members of the Little River Chapter, and an active and caring member. To help support Ken financially, we will be selling and auctioning off his tying materials and tools at the August meeting. This is your opportunity to pick up some materials and to help out a fellow

member. All proceeds will be turned over to Ken. Check out the article below for more details.

Also at the August meeting, we will present the custom made Sage rod to Steve Young as the winner of the 2014 Eddie George Award. This custom rod was built by Steve Moore.

Plans to expand the Trout in the Classroom continue to move forward and we need your help. Check out the attached article and give some thought to volunteering your time to work with kids. You won't be disappointed.

Be safe. I'll see you at the August meeting.

- **Mike**

Western NC Fishing Trail at August Meeting

Alex Bell will be our speaker at our Thursday, August 27 meeting at Calhoun's in Maryville. His talk will be on the "Western North Carolina Fishing Trail." This trail of 15 stops in Jackson County, NC, stretches roughly 10 miles from the headwaters near Balsam down to the city of Sylva.

Born and raised in the of Florida panhandle, all of Bell's relatives on his mother's side of the family salt water fished while his dad's side of the family preferred fresh water. Consequently, growing up, he was either on a ball field, in the gym, or on the water. Not a bad way to spend a childhood.

Bell ended up playing his senior year at Western Carolina University in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina. He fell in love with the region, and more importantly, the people. "I have been blessed to spend a 30 year career in public education in Jackson County, retiring as a high school principal in September of 2007", he says.



He was asked to attend a meeting with Julie Spiro, the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce to come up with ideas to promote the county to anglers. "We came up with the WNC Fly Fishing Trail & Map. The first fly fishing trail in the country", he explains. To date, this effort includes distributing more than 100,000 maps and Bell's speaking to over 1000 fly fishers at TU and fly fishing clubs in nine different states. The trail covers 15 spots in Jackson County covering big rivers, small streams, and everything in between.

Along this journey he became an Adaptive Fly Fishing Practitioner, meaning he teaches and certifies others to teach fly fishing/tying to people with disabilities. The Fall Semester of 2013 he taught a class as an adjunct professor on the therapeutic benefits of fly fishing to students in the Recreation Therapy Department at Western Carolina University. Bell is a professional guide who runs AB's Fly Fishing Guide Service.

His web page address is: <http://www.abfish.org/>

- **Calhoun's Maryville is located in the same complex as Target and Kroger. Come as early as 6:00 p.m. to socialize and enjoy Calhoun's cuisine. The program kicks off around 7:00 p.m.**

Smokemont Fishing Trip (September 25-27)

The next group fishing trip is scheduled for Smokemont Campgrounds on September 25-27. The plan is for arrival on Friday, August 25. Site check-in starts at noon; only tents are allowed in the group camp areas. Those who wish to camp in a camper need to reserve a separate site. You can do that through Recreation.gov.

Once you are set-up then the only thing left is fishing, eating and talking around the fire. There are a lot of places to fish from Smokemont, but remember if you go out of the Park you need a NC fishing license. In the park your TN license is good. Other than the Saturday night group dinner, meals are on your own. Check out will be at 11:00 am on Sunday.

Remember the new fly fishing museum is now open in Cherokee as well.

- Ernie

Member Profile: Charles James

- Occasionally we present you with some information that you might not know about one of your fellow angling TU members. This month's bio is on Chuck James. Chuck is the guy who has been doing the great job of putting together programs for our monthly chapter meetings and arranging the venue. He's also someone who doesn't mind getting his hands wet as he helps with the chapter's Trout In The Classroom project.

Nickname: Chuck

City/ County: Loudon, TN

General Family: Married 38 years to Terry. Moved to East Tennessee 10 years ago from the Chicago, IL area. Retired 5 years ago from Transonic Systems where I served as Vice President of Sales. Both Terry and I enjoy the outdoors and fly fishing.

Years Fly Fishing: Off and on since 1988. We had a second home in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We enjoyed fly fishing in the Ottawa National forest, where we could fish all day without seeing another person. Busy work travel schedules, however, kept us from fly fishing for a number of years until we moved to East Tennessee. After fishing in the mountains and not having much luck decided that perhaps we should hook-up with those that know the territory, although we had been members of TU we didn't start going to meetings until 3 years ago. We certainly have met some wonderful and helpful fellow fly fisherman and women in our Chapter.

Little River Chapter Activities: I knew after joining the LRCTU I wanted to get involved. I have served on the LRCTU Board for 2years and have chaired: Monthly Programs, Auction Items for Troutfest and am a coordinator for Trout in the Classroom for Lenoir City Middle School.

Favorite Places to Fly Fish: The GSMNP and in Western North Carolina, the Davidson River in the Pisgah Forest. I would love to fish in Montana.

Favorite Fly to Tie: Not far enough along with my tying to pick a favorite. I hope this winter I will have more free time to tie and improve my skills.

Best Fly Fishing Story: We were fishing in North Carolina last year and Terry had caught a Rainbow and Brown, she then hooked into a smaller fish, she was about ready to let it go when we realized it was a Brook trout. Terry had a North Carolina Grand Slam. That was fun.

Tie & Lie Night



Don't miss the next Tie & Lie Night scheduled for August 17 at the Casual Pint in Maryville from 6 to 8 pm. Enjoy your favorite libation and learn to tie the Tellico Nymph at the same time. Warning: there could be a few tall tales evolve from this combination!

--Ernie Frey

Lynn Camp Prong Update 2015

A very large majority on the Little River Chapter members should be congratulated for helping make this success happen. It took help raising funds with Troutfest events, soliciting prizes, organizing the events, spending money at the banquets, and volunteering on stream over a period of 8 years to reach this point. Thanks all!

-Matt Kulp

The fisheries staff, with assistance from local volunteers, Trout Unlimited members, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) interns and a group of outdoor writers, ranging in age from 7 to 82, conducted population monitoring surveys on the lower 3 miles of Lynn Camp Prong June 22, 24 and 25. Electrofishing surveys on Lynn Camp and a tributary (Marks Creek) indicate brook trout populations are at (15 kg/ha) or exceeding (>34 kg/ha) pre-treatment

biomass of rainbow trout at all 5 sites. The data indicate there are now between 1,392-5,616 brook trout per mile of stream on Lynn Camp Prong. The upper end of the biomass range (>35 kg/ha) would be considered exceptional in terms of trout abundance for any GRSM stream.

Both 2014 and 2015 produced excellent year classes of young-of-year (YOY) brook trout, which means there will be good numbers of adults in the next 2-3 years. In fact, YOY fish comprised 53% of the total brook trout catch across all sites. Of the adults collected in all sites, 23% were greater than 7 inches with good numbers of fish >8 inches. Catch rates of anglers have been reported in the 20-40 fish per hour range with the highest catch rates being reported farther from the trailhead.

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 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

Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website www.lrctu.org