

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

August, 2016 Newsletter



MONTHLY MEETING THURSDAY, AUGUST 25 AT CALHOUN'S MARYVILLE

President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

July ended up being a great month of fishing for me. John Reinhardt and I fished in central Colorado for a week in mid-July. The trip was great. Lots of browns, cutt's, cuttbows, rainbows, and some brookies caught on six different streams. Beautiful country along with fishing, beer, food, and friendship made for a memorable trip. Probably the biggest surprise of the trip was the midge fishing. On at least four different streams, we encountered trout sipping small midge emergers or adults on the surface. Fortunately, I did have some size #22 adult midge patterns and small BWO's that fooled multiple fish. The fish were picky. There were times when the fish wouldn't eat an adult midge pattern with a white wing, but readily ate the same pattern with a gray / dun wing. What a challenge and great time.

Closer to home, fishing in the Park continues to be good, despite the hot weather and at times, low water levels. Bill and I fished part of the West Prong one day. We caught a bunch of rainbows on both Stimulators and the classic Green Weenie. It's an absolutely beautiful stretch of water that reminds me of Greenbrier but with rainbows instead of brookies. Later in the week, Bill and I fished the South Holston as well. Again, a great day of fishing with many browns and rainbows brought to hand. Despite the direr reports on this year's sulfur hatch, we lucked into a sporadic hatch that gave us the opportunity to dry fly fish for the majority of the trip.

I'm gearing up for a trip to Yellowstone / Missouri River in October. Midges and BWO's will likely be the insects to imitate, so I'm busy tying a multitude of midge larva, pupa, emerger and adult midge patterns. Of course, I know whatever I tie will be the wrong, size, shape or color ☺. I can't wait.

When not fishing, I was able to help with the Anthony Creek restoration efforts this month. The work of eliminating rainbow trout is labor intensive. But when the restoration is complete, Anthony Creek will be a beautiful small stream that should be perfect using a short rod chasing beautiful brookies. I'm so thankful for the incredible efforts of the Park service and our volunteers to protect, restore, and preserve our natural resources. Many thanks to all of you have had the opportunity to help with your time, talents and money. It's truly appreciated. Be sure to check out the update included in this issue.

Many thanks to Mike McKinsey for yet another great meal at July's outdoor meeting, and to River John's for providing us with a great outdoors place to get together. A crowd of more than thirty folks from our Little River Chapter and the Great Smoky Mountain Chapter showed up on the river for a great meal and fellowship on a great July evening.



Finally, as summer moves into fall we will be adding three new schools to our local Trout-in-the Classroom program – Lonsdale Elementary, Heritage Middle School and Tate School of Discovery. This puts our local TIC programs at eleven.

Monthly Meeting – Thursday, August 25

We'll be back at Calhoun's for the August meeting. Ian and Charity Rutter (R & R Fly Fishing) will be presenting a program on fishing in the northern Rockies and Yellowstone. Ian and Charity always provide excellent programs, so this is one you do not want to miss.

Be safe and stay cool. I hope to see you on the stream and at our August meeting.

-Mike

Yellowstone Featured at August Chapter Meeting

Interested in Yellowstone? Isn't every angler? Come hear local guides, Ian & Charity Rutter, of R&R Fly Fishing, give us their take on this beautiful National Park and what it has to offer to anglers. Ian & Charity have been fishing and guiding in the greater Yellowstone area for about 20 years. In that time, they have fished across Wyoming, western Montana, and eastern Idaho in the Holy Land of fly fishing. They have also hosted groups of anglers on the Madison and Henry's Fork rivers since 2005. The Rutters will share photos and videos featuring iconic landscapes and wildlife of the northern Rocky Mountains and, of course, some beautiful trout. They will also have valuable information for anyone who wants to plan their own trip to Yellowstone Country.

We'll meet at Calhoun's Maryville, at the intersection of Hwy 321 and Hwy 129 in the Target complex. Come at 6:00 for fellowship & food (you don't have to eat to attend). Meeting starts around 7:00 p.m.

It's a Bird, It's a Plane, No Wait, It's SuperCaddis



Tie and Lie is scheduled for Monday, August 22 at the Casual Pint in Maryville from 6:00 to 8:00. We will attempt to tie Wood's Super Caddis. I saw this fly in Eastern Flyfishing magazine, it looks like it could be a good substitute for the much harder to tie Stimulator. We will be tying it in orange for the fall fishing season. A food truck will be available for those who may need something to eat. Come join us with your stories.

-Ernie Frey

New Home for Brookies in The Park

Anthony Creek Restoration On Schedule

By Caleb Abramson

With the assistance of Trout Unlimited, the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA), and a host of seasonal employees and interns, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) has begun its 12th native Brook Trout restoration project in the park.

On June 7, NPS fisheries staff began the first phase of the latest GRSM Brook Trout restoration project by removing non-native Rainbow Trout in the upper 1.6-mile portion of Anthony Creek, an Abrams Creek tributary. The Anthony Creek restoration project has similarities to the LeConte Creek Brook Trout restoration project of the early 2000s in that both streams were restored via electrofishing and the barrier preventing upstream migration of non-native trout species on both streams is a historical mill dam. If successful, the Anthony Creek Brook Trout restoration project will mark the first time since the mid-1900s that GRSM's native trout species have occupied their native habitat in the Abrams Creek Watershed.

Nearly 20 members of several local Trout Unlimited chapters volunteered their time, energy, and enthusiasm to assist Park staff in the electroshocking removal of non-native Rainbow Trout. Additionally, five TWRA employees from two regions volunteered their expertise to assist Park staff in this initial removal effort. Through thick brush, muggy heat, and the occasional hornet's nest, staff and volunteers waded through the creek in 100m sections, electroshocking and collecting Rainbow Trout. Each trout was counted and categorized as either juvenile or adult.

All Rainbow Trout were euthanized on site, and due to the large number of bear incidences in the area, were carried out of the Anthony Creek treatment area and disposed of at the Elkmont carrion dump site.

Year 2016 removals took place over a two-week period encompassing a total of 2,559-meters (1.6-miles) of stream. This included 359.1-meters of the Left Fork of Anthony Creek, as well as 2,200-meters of the main stem of Anthony Creek.

During the first round of removals (June 7-10), a total of 1,243 Rainbow Trout (371-juveniles and 872 adult fish), were removed from Anthony Creek proper, while the Left Fork of Anthony Creek yielded 189 Rainbow Trout (11-juveniles and 178-adults). There were a total of 1,432 non-native Rainbow Trout removed from Anthony Creek during the first round of removals.



The second round of restoration began June 27th with NPS, TWRA, Trout Unlimited, and other volunteers removing and euthanizing non-native Rainbow Trout from the entire 1.6-miles again.

During the second round of removals (June -27-30), a total of 489 Rainbow Trout (283-juveniles and 206 adults), were removed from Anthony Creek proper, while the Left Fork of Anthony Creek yielded 39-total fish (16-juveniles and 23-adults). There were 528 non-native Rainbow Trout removed from Anthony Creek during the second round of removals.

The complete removal tally after two rounds of electrofishing removal efforts on Anthony Creek was 1,960 fish. It should be noted that Rainbow Trout were the only fish species present above the Anthony Creek mill dam barrier.

Densities of Rainbow Trout ranged from 34-105 fish per 100-m² or (544-1,680 fish per mile) in the three monitoring sites sampled upstream of the mill dam barrier during the initial removal effort. One-hundred meters below the barrier, the Rainbow Trout densities are 101 fish per 100m² or (1,616 fish per mile). In order

to be considered a successful restoration, Brook Trout densities should be at or above the current Rainbow Trout numbers after those native trout are reintroduced in 2017.

Standardized 3-pass depletion monitoring downstream of the barrier turned up native Creek Chub, Longnose and Blacknose Dace. Had those native non-game fish species been present above the barrier, they would have been returned to the stream unharmed.

The GRSM Fishery Crew just completed the third-round of Rainbow Trout removals on Anthony Creek. The removal efforts took place in exactly 2,380-meters of waterway, which includes both the Left Fork of Anthony Creek as well as the main stem of Anthony Creek proper. The third round of removals yielded 243 Rainbow Trout, which brings the total removals since June 2016 to 2,203-fish. We anticipate conducting a fourth removal this fall from site 1 to site 6, as these locations had higher densities of fish and larger pools than the rest of the stream.

The GRSM fisheries staff applauds the enormous amount of volunteer support throughout this and other native fish restoration projects. These efforts would be difficult without the cooperation and partnership of Trout Unlimited, TWRA, Volunteers in Parks, and everyone else who has invested large amounts of 'sweat equity' into these projects.

The Anthony Creek project follows 11 previous successful Brook Trout restorations in the park, encompassing roughly 27 miles of streams. For the past 30 years, Park staff has focused on Brook Trout reintroductions in an effort to better preserve this natural resource for future generations to enjoy.

Original Report submitted by Aaron Coons, Brandon Williams, and Caleb Abramson

Annual Smokemont Camping Jamboree & Fishing Rodeo

Smokemont camping is scheduled for the weekend of **September 23 - 25**. We will be located at Group site 1 and will be joined by members of the Smoky Mountain chapter of Knoxville who have reserved an additional group site. The group sites are tent camping only, potable water is available. Any firewood needs to be certified for Park use and is available at various locations in Townsend, as well as the camp store in Smokemont. We will do a shared meal on Saturday evening, the rest of the meals are on your own. Hope to see you there, fishing is always good!

For more information, contact Ernie Frey ernest.frey@comcast.net

Vols in the Park!

A class in beginning fly fishing was held for Volunteers in Parks as part of the Park Service Enrichment Program for all of the many volunteers who give their time in support of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Little River Chapter members Mike and Jan Bryant, Charlie Chmielewski, Dave Ezell, and Ernie and Joyce Frey were joined by two North Carolina TU members conducting the class.

Matt Kulp provided wader boots for wet wading, the TN TU Council provided the rods and reels, and all the instructors had fun teaching casting, knot tying led by Dave Ezell, and small stream mountain fishing. Based on the feedback at the end of class and the message below from one of the VIPs attending, the students also had a good time learning.

"Thank you to everyone who helped put this program together and to everyone who spent their Saturday helping us with an introduction to fly fishing! We all had a wonderful time, learned a lot and everyone who went to the water caught fish! As always the best part of the program was meeting other Volunteers and sharing time and stories."

Charlie Chmielewski
Volunteer Coordinator

Women on the Water

A free special event for women interested in learning to fly fish, will be Saturday, Sept. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Women on the Water, partly funded by a TVA grant, will be at Miller Island Public Access Area on the Clinch on the date established as National Public Lands Day.

The women's program will teach the basic techniques of fly fishing plus water safety skills. 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.

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 or (865) 804-5491.

Topics covered will include:

- * Fly fishing equipment: rod, reel, line, waders/boots, vest, flies, fly box, clothes, sunglasses, accessories
- * Wading safety
- * Fly tying
- * Knot tying (Clinch knot, nail knot, surgeon's knot, how to tie 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)

Some Thoughts on Fly Tying

By Mike Bryant

At last month's Tie & Lie session, Jimmy Jones taught us how to tie the Wally Wing. Though I am not a lifelong tyer, I have been tying my own flies for many years. I enjoy learning new techniques and materials. But this was the first time I had seen the Wally Wing. It's essentially a mayfly wing made from a feather of a game bird or water fowl. The unique part isn't the material itself, but how you manipulate the feather to create a really cool variegated, translucent wing on adult mayfly patterns. Jimmy used a mallard feather, though from what I have read, this technique works with other game bird or water fowl feathers. Here are a couple of pictures of my first Wally wing fly.



The Internet is a great source for learning this technique. Maybe we can entice Jimmy to come back to a future Tie & Lie for another hands-on lesson. I will definitely have this pattern in my fly box next spring. Thanks Jimmy!

Fall Fly Tyers Weekend

November 4 & 5 [Cherokee, NC](#)

Hold That Date: This year's fall fly tyers weekend has moved to Cherokee, NC. It will be a two day event on Friday and Saturday. The event is now named the "CHEROKEE HOOKS & HACKLE" A Fly Tyers Retreat in The Smokys. There will be over 60 tyers from the region along with several fly tying vendors. The event is free. So mark your calendars.

Smoky Mountain Grand Slam Fundraising Banquet and Tournament

Hey fellow Trout Unlimited members and friends! I want to invite you to our Clinch River Chapter of Trout Unlimited's partnering with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing to create the Knoxville PHWFF Program.

Many of you have guided veterans at our local outings and helped with fly tying and rod building classes. You understand the value for veterans to wade or drift a stream—no thoughts of medical issues and problems, just focusing on fooling a trout with flies they tied and rods they built.

Please help us continue and grow this special program, helping those who served, healing one veteran at a time. Come to the Banquet at The Foundry on Friday, Sept. 2, and to the Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 3. I look forward to seeing you there.

You can register and make a donation or buy tickets at www.smokymountainslam.com.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Buzz Buffington
(865) 304-4623 cell

Blount County Volunteer Coordinator for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Needed

Are you a vet and have a little knowledge to share with fellow veterans? Here's your chance to be involved with our local Blount County program to help U.S. veterans learn to fly fish. Project Healing Waters has a proven record of success in helping wounded veterans reconnect and feel involved. You don't have to have served in the military to understand the needs and provide fishing instruction. So if you've got some spare time to devote to a very worthy cause, contact Mike Bryant, 513-697-9576, mjbryant1954@hotmail.com

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.lrcctu.org