

# Trout Unlimited

## Little River Chapter



### Fishermen plan around the moon. So will the solar eclipse get more fish to bite?

<http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/eclipse/2017/08/16/solar-eclipse-fishing-nashville/565535001/>

No matter how big or how small, anglers are always on the lookout for any factor that might affect the fish bite.

Weather patterns, water conditions and lake levels are a few components fishermen constantly monitor.

Moon phases are also believed to trigger fish feeding. It's why some anglers schedule trips based on the Solunar calendar.

That brings up a natural question some could be pondering for next week — what effect will the total eclipse Monday have on fish in the Nashville-area?



### NEXT MEETING

Thursday, Aug 24th

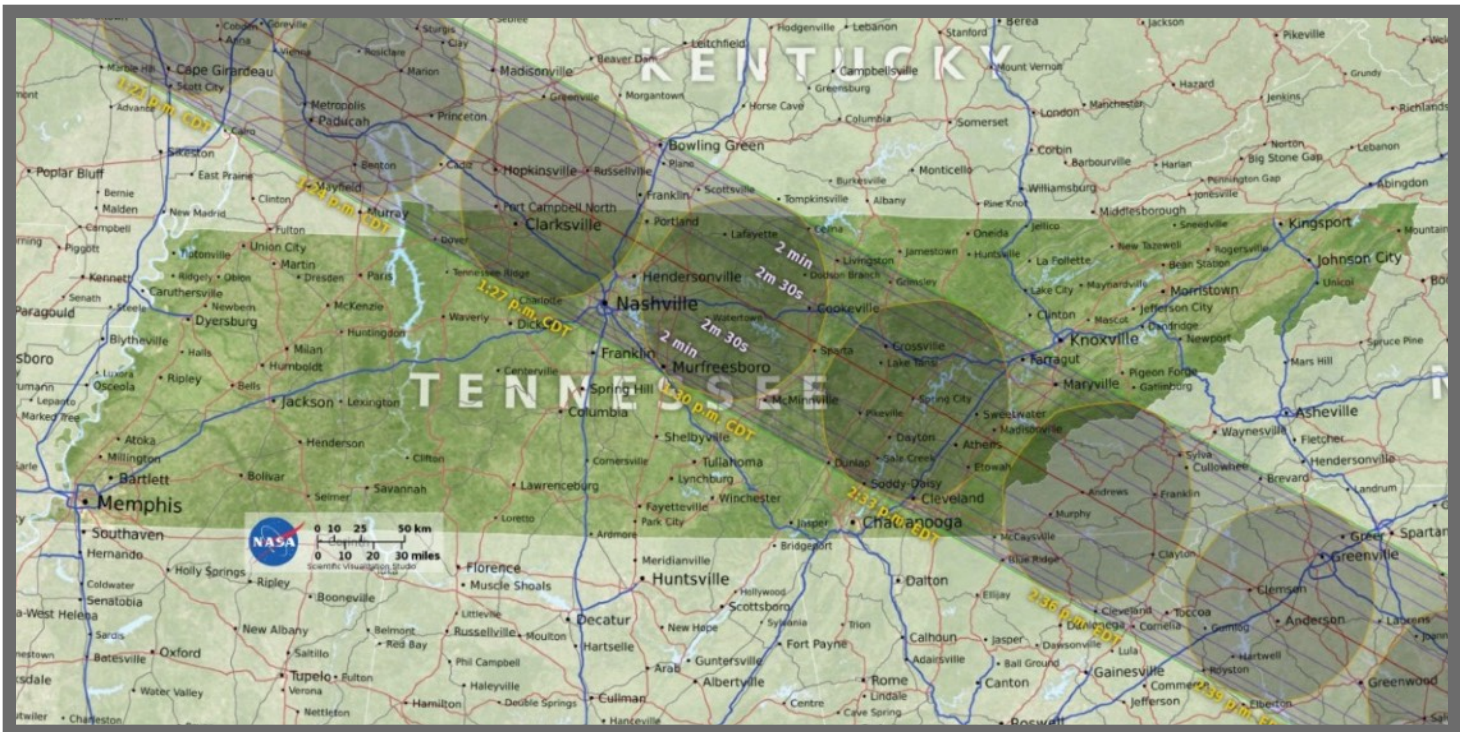
**Calhoun's**  
Maryville

Our program for August will be from Matt Crockett and Brett Winchel.



The Music City is directly in the path of this once-in-a-lifetime event when the moon will totally block out the sun causing darkness in the middle of the day for nearly two minutes.

If a moon phase impacts fishing then surely this celestial event will influence the bite as well, right?



## Will the eclipse affect the fish?

Wrong, says Joey Monteleone, an avid angler from Christiana who will be recognized as The Tennessee Outdoorsman of the Year at the Legends of the Outdoors Hall of Fame banquet Saturday.

“The eclipse probably won’t do anything specifically other than the fact that it’s centered almost on the new moon,” Monteleone said. “Other than that, I think it will have no effect. We have a tendency to give animals a certain human quality that they don’t have. It’s not like deer are going to stop and look up and say, ‘Wow, there’s an eclipse.’ They just go about their business.”



## **President's Corner**

Well it's August and summer has been pretty good to us so far. Little River has been low but not desperately low like last year. We have only had a few days in the 90's. This summer has been pretty good but I don't think we have recovered from last summer yet. Joyce and I went fishing on Middle prong or Tremont last week. Fishing was good. We found a lot of young of year rainbows which were fun on dry flies but no larger adults. It could have been just us and our fishing style but I think last year was a hard year on the Park.

All the talk now a days is the eclipse, to me it is a good excuse to head down to Tellico River and do some fishing. That way you could accomplish two things - get in a day of fishing and be in the path of a historic eclipse. Just an idea but get there early.

We had some fly casting games at July's picnic meeting and a great time was had by all. Charlie Chmielewski won the distance cast and Bill Bolinger won the accuracy contest. Congratulations to all the contestants that had the courage to get up in front of everyone and show their cast.

There is now a boot and wader cleaning station at Little River Outfitters. If you have been to waters that may have a problem with aquatic invasive species, before you head into the park to fish drop by the cleaning station and wash down your boots and waders. The cleaning solution is not chlorine based and is not supposed to harm your equipment.

This month's meeting will be on August 24 at Calhoun's in Maryville. As usual, the meeting will start at 7pm but the fellowship will start at 6pm.

### **A Little background on August's Speakers**

**Matt and Brett are two integral parts of the TU 5 Rivers Program at the University of Tennessee. This summer, they were both sent by TU on a 58 day cross country road trip with the goal of catching as many native species of trout as possible, and to raise awareness for conservation for native trout.**

**Matt and Brett will be giving a presentation that outlines their 58 day excursion, where they experienced the best trout water all over the US and landed 18 different species of native trout, along with plenty of wild brown trout. Pictures and video will be plentiful.**

## **Trout in the Classroom**

by Joyce Frey

SCHOOL HAS STARTED WHICH MEANS SO HAS OUR TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM FALL 2017 SEASON. TWO SCHOOLS DROPPED OUT AT THE END OF THE SPRING SEASON - LITTLE RIVER MONTESSORI AND HERITAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL. THESE TANKS AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE PLACED AT THE ST. JOHN NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN FARRAQUOT, AND THE LITTLE RIVER OUTFITTERS IN TOWNSEND. THE LITTLE RIVER OUTFITTERS TANK WILL BE USED TO

SHOWCASE OUR PROGRAM TO THE COMMUNITY. THE TANK AT THE CLAYTON BRADLEY ACADEMY HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE KINDERGARTEN CLASS. THIS IS THE YOUNGEST CLASS WE'VE HAD YET AND SHOULD BE VERY EXCITING. THE ALCOA MIDDLE SCHOOL MANAGED TO SAVE 8 OF THEIR FISH FROM THE SPRING. THEY WON'T BE DOING EGGS FOR THIS SEASON, MR. COLLETT, IN ADDITION TO BEING THE 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE TEACHER IS ALSO THE ASSISTANT FOOTBALL COACH. WE'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEE HOW BIG THEY GET BEFORE RELEASE IN DECEMBER.



TANKS WILL BE SET UP AND FILLED AFTER LABOR DAY WITH EGGS ARRIVING END OF SEPTEMBER OR BEGINNING OF OCTOBER. LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON.

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## GOOD MEMORIES — Mike Bryant

This past July, John and I made our annual trek out to central Colorado for a week of fishing. This year we met up with Noel who was travelling out west. Together, we had another great trip. It wasn't a trip marked with huge numbers of fish caught. But I had several memorable moments that will stick with me for a long time.

### Beetle Power

On our first day of fishing, John and I decided to hit one of our favorite streams in central Colorado. This small tailwater meanders through a beautiful valley as it heads towards the Eagle River. The area we fished is fairly flat. The stream is full of browns. When we first arrived, there were still a couple of caddis in the air. Right away I caught a couple of small browns on a CDC & Elk Caddis fly. But the sun was rising fast and it became clear that the fish were hunkering down. So I starting





working upstream trying to find structure. I found a couple of fish rising in a non-descript one-foot deep hole with a small piece of wood on the edge. Given the bright sun and skinny water I kept my distance and lengthened my leader with 3-4 feet of 6X tippet and tied on a beetle pattern that a friend taught me how to tie. With the first cast a nice brownie smacked the fly. After releasing him I cast back into the same small hole. Bam! A nice brookie ate the beetle. They must have been side by side in that small hole!! I caught two smaller browns in that same hole as well. I caught another ten or so brownies upstream before heading back to the car for a late lunch.



#### Frying Pan River

One morning the three of us made the journey to the famous Frying Pan River. John decided to chase the huge browns and rainbows feeding on mysis shrimp up near the reservoir. Noel and I went downstream looking for fish. While stalking along the bank, we found a couple of browns feeding in a good size eddy right along the path. It looked like they were feeding on midges initially (nothing else was evident). The two fish were feeding no more than 12-18 inches from the shore. I backed up from the edge, watch them feed for about 5

minutes. The bigger brown was in front. I tied on a #20 olive CDC Comparadun with a couple of feet of 7X. I figured that only the 7X could be on the water. One good cast and drift later the brownie eat the fly and I was scrambling down the bank to catch and release. I rested the eddy for ten minutes and the smaller trout moved up and started feeding. I tied on a #24 or #26 yellow CDC Comparadun and the first cast hooked him. Rookie mistake on my part, I was too strong with the hook set and pulled the small hook out.

#### Mill Dam

On our last day, we fished a non-descript small stream coming out of the mountain. The stream is about the size of the West Prong of the Little River. But there is a rather large pool created by an old mill dam constructed many years ago and now abandoned. The pool is a good 50 feet across and 70 foot long. On a previous trip we saw rising fish feeding on midges. I wasn't prepared for midge fishing but did manage to catch several nice browns on the smallest flies I had in my box. This year I was better prepared. When we arrived, there were very few midges in the air and fewer rising fish. As the morning progressed, so did the hatch. I followed the hatch with my fly selection. Initially I tied on small midge pupa patterns that fooled several nice trout, including a beautiful brookie. By noon the hatch was in full force and the fish were



happily rising. Finally, the females were dropping down to laying their eggs and die. I tied on a #22 black CDC Comparadun. The CDC wing was about the length of the hook shank. Fish were rising but wouldn't take my fly. The white CDC was really bright in the direct sun so I cut it down to a little nub. Though I knew it would be harder to see on the water, I theorized that the long, bright wing was the cause of the fly being rejected. The second forty-foot cast raised a gorgeous 12 inch brown who eat the fly. Too cool.

Good Memories!

## TIE 'N LIE: STIMULATOR

I HAVE HAD A REQUEST TO TIE A STIMULATOR AT TIE AND LIE ON MONDAY AUGUST 28. I PERSONALLY FEEL THAT THIS IS ONE FLY THAT IS BETTER OFF PURCHASED AT YOUR LOCAL FLY SHOP BUT WHAT IS LIFE WITHOUT A CHALLENGE.

SO THE FLY WE WILL TRY TO TIE IS THE STIMULATOR. LUCKILY WE WILL BE AT THE CASUAL PINT IN MARYVILLE SO THERE WILL BE ADULT BEVERAGES AVAILABLE AND WE WILL ONLY BE THERE FROM 6 TILL 8 PM.

HOOK: DRY FLY, 3X LONG, SIZE 12, 14

THREAD: ORANGE

TAIL: ELK OR DEER BODY HAIR

ABDOMEN: ORANGE OR YELLOW DUBBING

BODY HACKLE: GRIZZLY OR BROWN

WING: ELK OR DEER BODY HAIR

THORAX: ORANGE DUBBING

FRONT HACKLE: GRIZZLY OR BROWN



## Volunteer Activities

### Report from Matt Kulp, Supervising Fishery Biologist

Below are excerpts of a report Matt Kulp provided on the fisheries work in the National Park this summer. Working with Matt has been a great experience for me and all the volunteers who have helped. Volunteers from our chapter assisted in this





work except for work on the North Carolina side of the Park, where NC TU is now assisting.

"The fisheries crew has been diligently working on a variety of projects this summer. So far, 42 fish monitoring sites have been completed across the park with 6 more scheduled to be completed. Generally, surveys indicate adult brook and rainbow numbers are down slightly from previous

years, most likely due to the effects of last fall's drought. Adult condition appears average to above average as the lower adult densities improve condition of surviving adults. Reproduction has been mixed across sites. Five IBI sites have been completed across the park with one more scheduled on Hazel Creek."

### **Anthony Creek Update**

As reported previously, this is the second year of brook trout restoration on Anthony Creek with much of the volunteer work coming from LRC.

"Follow-up surveys on Anthony Creek netted an additional 19 one year old rainbow trout. Surveys also collected 22 young of year (YOY) rainbow trout from 3 sites, which appeared to be from a single mating pair.



Additional removal efforts are planned for late August and September to remove any remaining rainbow trout prior to translocating brook trout in late September. As Anthony Creek is a tributary to the Little Tennessee subwatershed, source stocks from Little Tennessee tributaries, including upper Deep Creek, Sahlee Creek, Bunches and Flat Creek will be collected for restoring Anthony Creek."

### **Lynn Camp Prong Update**

"Over the last several years, we [Park Service] have received reports from anglers that they caught a rainbow trout on Lynn Camp Prong. Some of the reports have been below the barrier falls, but a few have been above the falls at a similar location. Additional surveys are being conducted this summer to determine if the source of the fish and further details will be provided once surveys are completed."

## North Carolina

"Preparations are underway for the Little Cataloochee Creek brook trout restoration treatment scheduled for September 11-15. Three NC TU chapters, as well as the NC Wildlife Resources Commission staff, will be assisting with this effort."

### Park Service Fisheries Newsletter



"The fisheries seasonal staff has been working on its first ever newsletter, which should be ready very soon. The newsletter will provide short pieces on a variety

topics, including project updates, fish factoids and research studies. We'll distribute the newsletter in the near future.

Also, there are two different film crews working with the fisheries crew this summer each working on different pieces that will promote and protect brook trout and discuss the importance of preserving native fish species across their range. Look for these in the upcoming months.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have helped this year on water quality, fish sampling and other adventures. In many cases, we couldn't complete the work without your help. We look forward to seeing you on the water."

Thanks for the great report Matt and thanks go to Gary Verholek for the pictures.

If you want to help with any of the upcoming work on Anthony Creek or other work, please contact me, Charlie Chmielewski, [charlieflyfish@gmail.com](mailto:charlieflyfish@gmail.com), 865-661-7325.