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FISHING THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

“...OF ALL THE LIARS AMONG MANKIND, THE FISHERMAN IS THE MOST TRUSTWORTHY.” – WILLIAM SHERWOOD FOX

We did it! Almost 40 members of 4 different TU chapters gathered together live at River John's this past July to celebrate...getting together!! While there were a couple fly rod games out there on the lawn and a few tried their luck in the Little River (to pretty much no avail with the water as low as I have seen it in my 8 years of attending this event) most folks just stayed in the shade and reestablished old ties in person. This meeting marked a 2-year time interval since the last get together at River John's.

A note on future meetings. **We are planning to hold a live meeting on Thursday, August 26 at the Blue Tick Tavern in downtown Maryville.** See more information on the meeting and program below. We are keeping an eye on the way the Delta variant is spreading; as I said a few months ago, flexibility is key. Many of us are getting out and also getting used to that irritating accoutrement in the COVID era, the mask. I am on the West Coast at this writing and at our location, businesses are remaining open but asking patrons to mask up. I am saying if

you feel the need to wear a mask, go for it but still come and meet in person; we want to see you.

A new organization that is in the formation stages and I have been meeting with via zoom is the Blount County Watershed Alliance. The leaders of this group are bringing together over 25 organizations that have some interest in the conservation and improvement of watersheds in Blount County. This includes the Little River which in our wheelhouse. I am most interested in getting together with those who we could possibly partner to expand the cleanups at Pistol Creek in downtown Maryville and our Little River Cleanup in the Park. There are a lot of folks out there who are conservation minded and want to be involved; I think this group has the potential to bring them together.

Best Wishes and Tight Lines!
Steve

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH LRCTU

Dates	Location and Job Description	Priority	Number Needed	Organizations Involved
August 19 – 20	Bunches & Flat Creek Evaluation - High elevation Brook Trout electrofishing - Meet at Flat Creek Trailhead at 8:30 a.m.; both days	Medium	2	TU, NPS
September 13 - 16	Hazel Creek 3-Pass Depletion and IBI Sampling Strenuous field work. Limited to 2 volunteers (call Matt for details).	High	2	NPS, TU
September 18 or 19	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	10 or more	LRCTU
September 25	TENTATIVE —Little River Cleanup <u>Still working with</u>	High	As many as possible	LRCTU, others?

	<u>GSMNP staff to confirm</u>			
Mid-November Date TBD	Pistol Creek Cleanup Maryville	High	As many as possible	LRCTU, others?
November 20 or 21	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	10 or more	LRCTU

AUGUST MEETING

Join us for our In Person meeting **Thursday, August 26 at 6:00 pm at Blue Tick Tavern in Maryville.** We will be meeting in the upstairs back room. Due to staffing issues at the Tavern, we have moved the meeting day to Thursday. LRCTU will provide pizza, you will be on your own for drinks from the bar.

Our speaker for the night will be Julie M. Konkel, Ph.D. Julie is the Watershed Coordinator for the Blount County Soil Conservation District and one of the leaders of the newly formed Blount County Watershed Alliance. Dr. Konkel has an expertise in watershed and soil processes. She has worked in natural resource management, conservation, and soil and water science for more than ten years and has worked in ecosystems ranging from the south American Andes to the High Arctic. Steve and I attended the first meeting of the Watershed Alliance in July, which provided an initial introduction to the forum and its purpose. Since Steve and I are considering having LRCTU involved, we asked Julie to present a little information about the goals and purpose of the Watershed Alliance and how it relates to our members.

CATALOOCHEE CAMPING TRIP - SEPTEMBER 10 - 12

This Chapter sponsored camping trip has always been a great success, even though the weather has been somewhat unpredictable. (It shouldn't rain because Ernie didn't pick the dates.) You can start arriving at Group site 3 on Friday, September 10 anytime after 1:00. Check out is Sunday, September 12 by 12:00 noon.

For those of you who have never attended, but wish to, below is some important information since this is considered a primitive site.

- Tents only. Three Tent Pads Available (one measuring 17' X 17' and two measuring 18' X 33'). Depending on how many show up, we may have to double up tents on the pads. Keep that in mind in selecting the size of tent you plan to bring.
- There is no water, other than the Cataloochee, so you must bring enough for the weekend for both drinking and cleanup.
- A vault toilet and bear proof dumpsters are available

- Firewood Restriction: Only heat-treated firewood bundled in its original packing and bearing a certification seal from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) or a state department of agriculture may be brought into the park. This rule is strictly enforced. Campers may also collect dead and down wood in the park for campfires. You should plan to bring 4 or 5 packages of firewood. (we have some great campfires)
- There is a raised Fire Pit and Cooking Grill and 4 Picnic Tables
- Friday night dinner you are on your own, but the Chapter will provide burgers and hotdogs on Saturday night. Please bring a dish to share and whatever condiments you might enjoy.

Please email Larry Davis at ledavis97@gmail.com if you plan to attend or have any questions. You can also check out site and park information on recreation.gov.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

The new school year is beginning and we are very hopeful that Trout in the Classroom will be a part of it.

I'll be contacting all of our TIC teachers and Coordinators in mid August, after all the schools are back in session, to see if they are able to resume our TIC program.

TIC Coordinator - Eagleton Middle School: We are in need of a TIC Coordinator for the Eagleton Middle School in Maryville. It's a great opportunity to get involved in our program and help the teacher take care of the tank during the school year. If you are interested and would like to learn more please give me a call at [724-612-2166](tel:724-612-2166) or email me at jmjes711@gmail.com.

Jim Jeswald



TWO CLASSICS FOR THE FALL by Steve Young

Fall is coming (have faith my fishing freinds!) despite what the temperatures are now. In the Smokies, orange is a favorite fall color. A common fall fish food is the orange caddis; many go to the difficult to tie orange stimulators to mimic this bug. The flies we will tie also mimic the orange caddis and others and are much easier to tie.

The first is a classic **British Spider Fly—the Orange and Partridge**. This fly harkens back to the early days of fly fishing when fly tying materials were limited, nymphs weren't hardly a word, and there wasn't anything out there that floated long enough to make a fly 'dry'.

The second is a **Smoky Mountain Classic; the Orange Palmer**. This fly has a few more materials than the orange and partridge but is still pretty straight forward. This is a good 'floater' in Smoky Mountain turbulent mountain streams.

Both flies have numerous variants; they all work for someone somewhere. These flies work well as a dry-dropper pair although some might want to test the waters with some color variety. A 12 or 14 Palmer would probably work well with a lightly weighted 16 or 18 Walt's worm or 18 Perignon that we tied with Will last month. I will present the menu for each with some ideas for different materials to tie the fly.



British Spider Fly - the Orange and Partridge

Hook—Size 10 – 18 Dry or Nymph fly hook (depends how fast and deep you wish the fly to sink below the surface).

Thread—Orange from dull to flashy in 70D. Many published menus call for silk or Pearsall's Gossamer or floss—regular orange thread works fine.

Rib—(optional) gold in size appropriate to hook size. Helps preserve thread/tinsel and can give the fly a little extra weight.

Body—(optional) some patterns put floss or tinsel over the tying thread. I use some orange holographic tinsel just because I like a little glitter.

Thorax—(optional) some patterns use peacock herl or some dubbing, I use a little black ostrich herl. Helps keep the partridge flared out on retrieve.

Hackle—Partridge in grey or brown.



Orange Palmer

Hook--10-16 Dry. I use a 2x long with the size 14 and 16, 1x long or regular will also work.

Thread—Orange in 70D

Wing/Post—(optional) antron or poly yarn, rabbit. For old eyes that need some help seeing the fly (with the brown and grizzly hackle it is a little dark on the water)

Tail—a few fibers of the brown and grizzly hackle. I use a few bristles of a make-up finishing brush. I find them a little easier to tie in.

Dubbing—(optional) orange. I use a laser or polar dub; again, I just like the flash but also thinks it mimics water bubbles on a freshly hatched dun. Ian Rutter, ever the 'just the facts ma'am' tier, eliminates the dubbing. Some dubbing will get water logged with use. (The attached picture shows yellow for the spring color. I don't have a good pic of an orange version. Result of orange pattern is orange obviously and a little darker because of the brown hackle rather than tan used in picture).

Hackle—brown and grizzly. I use some slightly orange tinted grizzly to emphasize the orange.

The tying decision with this fly is palmering in the hackle simultaneously or one at a time. I have tried both with mixed success.

BUGS AND FLIES

Normally I give you a fly to be used the current month, but since the trout are somewhat stressed with the hot weather, too warm and low water, I've decided to highlight a fly for next month.

Pycnopsyche, Great Autumn Sedge or the October Caddis

There are several different October Caddis species ranging across the United States. This is a description of the one that exists on the east coast.



The October Caddis adult is approximately 20 mm (head to wingtip, at rest) and range in color

from brown to bright orange. The body and forewing are uniformly reddish-brown except for a dark gray blotch near the middle of the wing, an irregular crescent-shaped patch near the blotch, and a dark band along lower half of outer margin. The forewing is pointed and somewhat V-shaped. The antennae are thick and slightly shorter than the length of forewing.

The larvae develop in streams and small rivers in forested areas. The adults rest on nearby vegetation during day, becoming active at night, and are attracted to light.

In fall, females land on shoreline objects then crawl underwater to lay eggs, which hatch in a few days. Larvae feed on decaying leaves throughout fall and winter. In spring and early summer, final instar larvae enter pre-pupal period of quiescence (diapause) lasting from 1 to 6 months, during which they either attach their cases to the undersides of rocks, or bury themselves in gravel of a streambed. Pupation occurs from mid-summer to early fall. Pupae crawl out of the water onto shore, where the adults emerge; one generation per year.



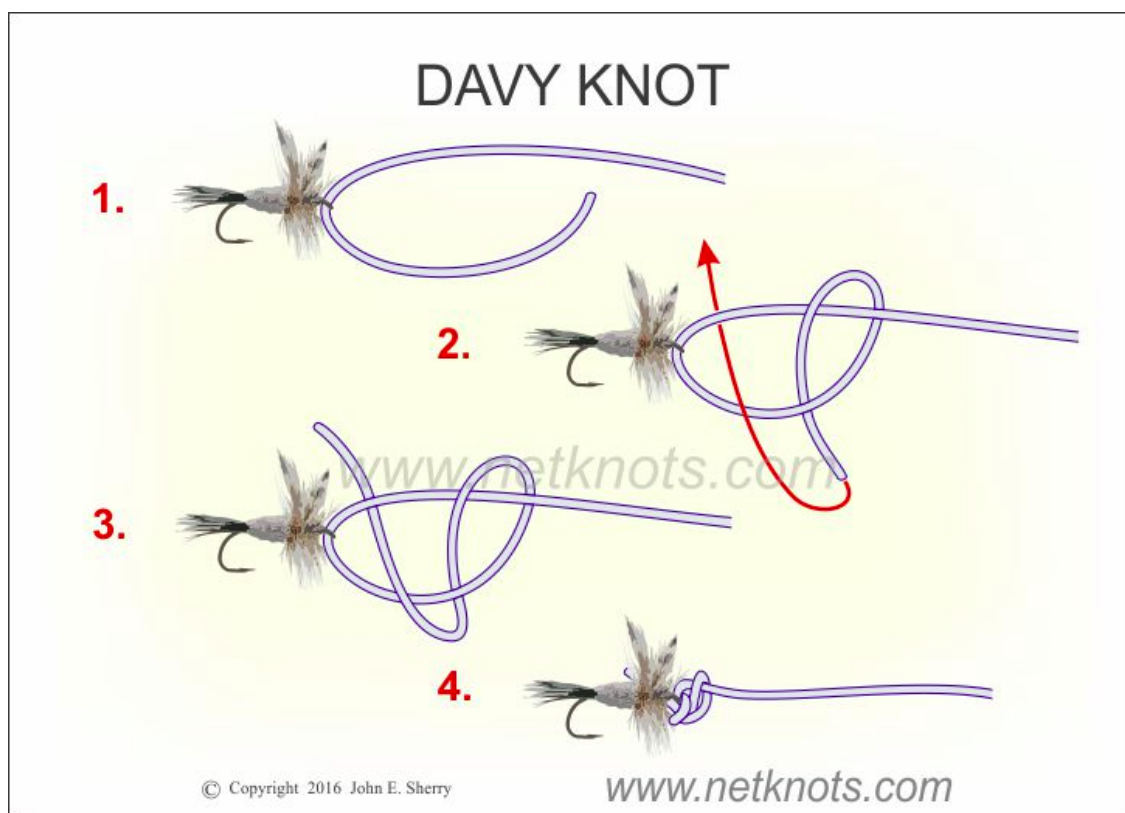
KNOTS (from netknots.com)

The **Davy Knot** is attributed to Davy Wotton, a British Fly Fishing pro. The positive aspects of this knot are in speed, size and strength - all great attributes for a fishing knot. Once learned, the Davy Knot can be tied very quickly which gets you back to fishing in a minimal amount of time. A keen eye might notice that the tying steps of the Davy are the same method used in the highly reliable [J Knot](#) for tying two lines together, just not as many passes. Learning and using the J Knot for tying tippet to leader will make tying your fly on with the Davy Knot a cinch!

It is also a very compact knot making it a nice knot for small flies (we recommend the Davy

Knot for **flies size 18 -22**) and various tests rate it between 85 to 100 percent of line strength, with 90% probably a safe assumption. The Davy Knot should be in every fly fisher's arsenal of knots! If tying on larger size flies an extra pass can be made resulting in the ["Double Davy Knot"](#) ([click to see](#)).

- Thread 3 to 4 inches of leader (or tippet) through the hook eye.
- Loosely form a simple overhand knot ahead of the hook.
- Bring the tag end back through the loop making sure to pass between the overhand knot and the hook itself.
- Tighten the knot by pulling first on the tag end to draw up the knot, then on the main line to set the knot.



OTHER NEWS - FISHING STORIES

If anyone has any stories and/or pictures you'd like to brag about, send them in. I'll be glad to help you brag.

Ernie and I spent a couple days in Bryson City with family. While there, Ernie, my brother and I fished the Cherokee Trophy waters with guide Richard Witt. It was a very overcast day, and cool (just perfect) and the water was cold. We fished 3 different sections and caught trout at each one. Ernie even caught a Golden Trout, but it spit the hook before we could get pictures. Lots of fun catching big trout!



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