



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

NOTES FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who participated in the 2023 LRCTU On-Line Auction Fundraiser. This year's auction raised over \$9,500 which is a 60% increase from last year's auction and over twice the amount raised in our initial auction held two years ago. At least 80% of the auction proceeds will be donated to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) Fisheries Department. The growth and success of the auction would not have been possible without the support of LRCTU members, local businesses, and guides who donated goods and services, volunteers willing to collect and deliver auction items, and members bidding generously.

The fall Trout in the Classroom (TIC) session concluded with the final trout release of the year on a frosty December morning at the Townsend KOA Campground. The TIC Committee continues to do an outstanding job of organizing and managing this program. The magnitude of the Trout in the Classroom program is only limited by the size of our volunteer base. If you are interested in becoming involved in the TIC program, contact Kim Emery at kim@topshelfedu.com.

Stream Barrier Surveys will continue throughout the winter months in GSMNP. Phase 1 was completed in April 2023, and is already being used to make decisions regarding culvert replacements in GSMNP. We are currently surveying Phase 2 locations identified by the Park Service and the Southern Appalachian Region of Trout Unlimited. If you are interested in working on a Stream Barrier Survey team contact Bernie Maloy at 52bazzman@gmail.com.

The first Chapter meeting of the new year will be held on **Wednesday, January 24** at the Bluetick Tavern in Maryville. Matt Kulp, Supervisory Fisheries Biologist for GSMNP, will be the featured speaker. You will not want to miss Matt's annual update on GSMNP fisheries projects.

Bob Bishop
President

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

There will be no meeting in December.

The January meeting will be held WEDNESDAY, January 24 at Bluetick Tavern in Maryville. Guest speaker will be Matt Kulp, Supervisory Fisheries Biologist for GSMNP.

There will be no Tie & Lie this month. Join us the last Monday of the each month. Next Tie & Lie will be January 29 at the Casual Pint in Maryville at 6:30.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

There were 5 schools who released their trout at the KOA in Townsend over the last two weeks. Although the weather was cold, all the students had a great time. Much thanks to the following volunteers from our Chapter, TWRA, TVA and GSMNP.

From LRCTU functioning as school coordinator, bass patrol, bug collection and discussion, schedule keeper and release coordinator:

Sara Bishop	Bob Bishop
Steve Croslin	Kim Emery
Ernie Frey	Joyce Frey
Jim Jeswald	Bernie Maloy
Dan Spradlin	Ann Strange

From GSMNP, TVA and TWRA doing show and tell

Matt Kulp - GSMNP

Zack Bennett - TVA

Aaron Coons - TVA

Seth Heston - TVA

Scott Dalton - TWRA

Bart Carter - TWRA

Sally Petre - TWRA

Pictures from each of the releases follow.

John Sevier Elementary Kindergardners



Tate's School of Knoxville 4th graders



Clayton Bradley Academy 2nd graders



Lonsdale 5th graders



Episcopal School of Knoxville 4th graders



PISTOL CREEK CLEAN-UP

Several volunteers braved the cold and rain last Saturday, December 9th to honor our commitment to the City of Maryville. The Chapter does a clean up of Pistol Creek from the US321 bridge to the library ponds twice per year; in December prior to TWRA stocking the creek for the winter fishing program and March after the season is over.

Again, we extend a thank you to TVA National Resources for the \$1,000 Reservoir and Community Cleanup grant. We dedicated these funds for safety vests, garbage

bags and gloves.



UNUSUAL AQUATICS FOUND DURING TCI RELEASE PREPARATION

During the shocking process and search for benthic aquatic insects for the TCI release programs, we came across a nymph and a darter that are rarely seen. The first was an **armored nymph**. These nymphs, similar to stoneflies and approximately half-inch in size, crawl out of the water to emerge.



The second was a Green Sided Darter. The darter was found twice, both times in the section of Little River near the KOA Campground.



MEMBERS OUT THERE

Winter rainbows from John Giorgini on the left, Ian Rutter on the right.



Wishing all of you peace, love and joy this Christmas.

Joyce Frey

Newsletter Editor



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