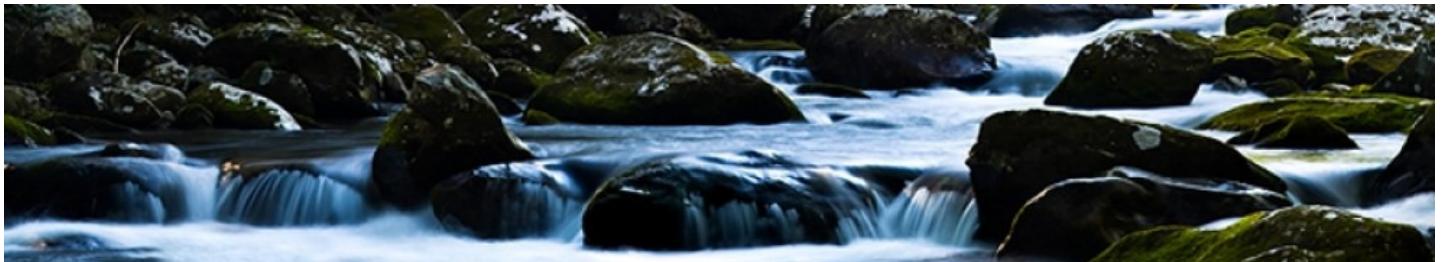


# Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## February 2013 Newsletter



### President's Corner

Mike Bryant ([mjbryant1954@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbryant1954@hotmail.com))

Though I've enjoyed building fires and tying flies this winter, I'm definitely ready for spring, warmer weather and more flyfishing. Jan and I will be taking a trip to southern Florida in February to hopefully enjoy some warmer weather, good seafood and a chance for some saltwater fishing. Then back hopefully to some Quill Gordons, early stoneflies and hungry trout.

Well, I'm proud to say I've completed building my first bamboo rod. WOW, do I have a whole new admiration for those take up this hobby/sport/obsession. I've assembled graphite rods in the past, but this is a totally different animal altogether. The rod was a retirement gift from my family. I had no clue about the skill, artistry and time that goes into building bamboo rods. I know I committed 80+ hours in the building and finishing of this rod (ok – maybe I'm not the fastest car on the track). I built the rod under the tutelage of Dr. Jerry Snider (Otter Creek Bamboo Rods). Jerry is a retired University of Cincinnati Biology Professor. He has a great workshop. He is an excellent instructor and was very patient given my limited time in Cincinnati. The skill and artistry is amazing. As an example, the wraps on the guides have two coats of epoxy and five coats of varnish. The rod turned out great. It's a 6' 3", 4 wt. Paul Young Midge taper. I can't wait to chase brookies with it up in Greenbrier, Road Prong, and Sam's Creek.

**Many thanks to Steve Moore.** At the January Meeting, Steve discussed the extraordinary collaboration between members of the Little River Chapter, UT, and the Fisheries Department over the past 15 years. The Chapter should be proud of the impact we have had and will have in the future. Steve highlighted how acid deposition will continue to be a major threat to the preservation and health of fish and streams, both in and out of the GSNMP. Our conservation efforts will be needed more than ever in our on-going drive to preserve our natural resources for future generations.

### Chapter News

We've had several changes to the Board in the past month. Bill Bolinger was elected as the Secretary, and Mike McKinsey was elected as a Director. Mike will serve as the Trips Chairman. With Mike's leadership, we hope to sponsor several fishing trips this year. More to come on this, but I thought I would provide a small teaser. Caleb Abramson has resigned from the Board. He was offered a full scholarship for graduate school at Penn State University! This is his dream and a great opportunity for a great person. We wish Caleb all the best!!

## **Help Wanted**

We're still looking for help in leading and / or supporting a Chapter education program. We would like to get back to basic fly fishing education for our members. We're looking for someone or several folks to help pull together a plan. We are not asking for you to do it all, but help generate plans, communicate to our members of upcoming opportunities and find volunteers.

And we need for someone to take on the Monthly Programs Chair vacated by Caleb. The role can be shared by a couple of folks. The role includes contacting and arranging for monthly program speakers, and securing program information to be communicated on our newsletter and website. We can provide a database of possible speakers.



### Upcoming River Clean-up

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 20. We will hold our annual Little River Clean-up. More details to come, but given our Chapter's mission is to preserve and protect watersheds in the Park, this is a great way to give and contribute. Consider bring a kid – this is a great opportunity to get kids out into the Park and expose them to the concept of service.

We'll see you at the February meeting. As always, if you have a question or comment, please email or call me. Be safe.

Mike Bryant ([mjbryant1954@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbryant1954@hotmail.com))

## **Fishing Hazel Creek – Ian & Charity Rutter February 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

### February's Program – Hazel Creek

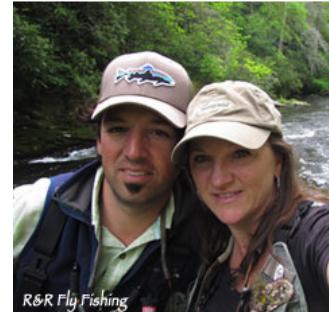


This month we are lucky to have Ian & Charity Rutter of R&R Fly Fishing present a program on Hazel Creek. To some anglers, it is a stream that epitomizes trout fishing in the GSMNP. It is remote enough – you have to either walk 11 miles of shoreline trail or take a boat across Fontana Lake. At least, here, you won't see that spank'n new SUV pull up next to you and three novice fly flingers plop through the stream to try and cardiac arrest as many fish as possible. Once you're there, you might as well stay, so camping is an integral part of the Hazel

Creek experience.

Ian & Charity are inherently familiar with Hazel Creek, as they regularly take a group of anglers for fishing and camping along its banks. Hazel Creek is one of the most remote and legendary trout streams in the eastern United States. Ian & Charity have been guiding this stream for years and will share their knowledge about this colorful area including history, wildlife, and the details of fishing and camping.

(Editors note: "And yes, Virginia, there are bears on Hazel Creek.")



For most of us, there's no need for an introduction for Ian and Charity. Both are local guides who operate R&R Fly Fishing guide service in Townsend, Tennessee where there are hundreds of miles of trout streams and tailwaters right out their back door. They have authored several books on fly fishing in southern Appalachia, Smokey Mountains and Tennessee. Visit their web site at <http://www.randrflyfishing.com/>

Please note that we will meet at the Monte Vista Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. The meeting will start at 7:00pm.

Address: Monte Vista Baptist Church  
1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd  
Maryville, TN 37803-5505

## Acid Levels Still a Concern in GSMNP Streams



**W**hen it comes to acid sampling in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, much has been done... and much remains to be done. Steve Moore, chief fisheries biologist for the GSMNP, said that while volunteers and park staff have documented detrimental acid levels in park streams, government agencies outside the National Park Service must come together to enact beneficial change.

Moore, an internationally recognized fisheries biologist, spoke to a crowd gathered for the January LRCTU meeting.

Moore said that while the park estimates 2115 miles of streams within its boundaries, another 1000 miles could be added according to a recent more inclusive survey. Those streams contain more than 60 species of fish and more than 1600 species of aquatic invertebrates.

Moore was complimentary of the volunteers who have trudged through the parks back woods since 1993 to sample streams. "The accomplishments of this program include hiking over 5,200 miles and

collecting at least 11,008 samples through 2009", he said. This effort has established the GSNP as having the highest levels of acid deposition in the North America.

According to water ANC levels, or Acid Neutralizing Capabilities, more than 50% of streams in the park qualify as extremely sensitive. Other areas of concern are that, the higher levels of SO<sub>2</sub> in soils deplete the ground's buffering ability and allow toxins, such as aluminum, to be leached into streams and absorbed by plants.

One bright spot is that The Clean Air Act and actions taken by the Tennessee Valley Authority to reduce emissions, seems to be helping with pH levels. With regard to pH levels "about 80 percent of park streams are in good shape for trout," Moore said. Trout are unlikely harmed in waters with pH levels of between 6.0 and 7.5. "However, when pH falls into the 5.0 – 6.0 range, such as is common in higher elevation streams, it may become harmful to eggs, fry and non-acclimated aquatic life," Moore said. A direct observation of this can be seen in the 12 streams in the Park listed as "impaired" since 2006.



Moore said, that in order to move forward and improve water quality by limiting SO<sub>2</sub> and other pollutants, there has to be a coordinated effort among the National Park Service, the US Forest Service and the EPA. "Somehow there has to be a tie in established between human health and these water quality issues to get action," he said. Another obstacle in the way of action is the lack of correlation between two major legislations. "The biggest pitfall is that there is no link between Clean Air Act violations and Clean Water Act violations," Moore said.

## ACID DEPOSITION BREAKFAST MEETING FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>

Volunteer coordinator Charlie Chmielewski, reports (while fishing on Arkansas' North River, no less) that the GSMNP Acid Deposition kick off meeting is scheduled for interested volunteers and University of Tennessee researchers on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at Park Headquarters, behind Sugarlands Visitors Center. The meeting will include breakfast and should be completed by noon. A schedule of trips, volunteers and team leaders should be completed around the end of the month and will be available on various sites including our [www.lrcu.org](http://www.lrcu.org) web site as well as GSMNP sites.

# Fish Tails

(Editors note: LRCTU members are fortunate enough to fish a variety of waters around this country and outside it. Sharing information on a trip or a local outing can be helpful to other members who may be interested in a similar experience. Please submit a few paragraphs (and photos, if possible) on a recent or distant outing that you'd like to share with our members. Questions or submissions to Dave Ezell (865) 567-1479 or [ezop@charter.net](mailto:ezop@charter.net) )

## Ohhhh Canada!

Where beautiful fall colors and bountiful chinooks are a winning combination

By Bill Bolinger

Picture twenty miles of private water in the Canadian northwoods on fire with fall colors, a tent camp with amenities on the river bank and king salmon constantly moving upstream to complete their spawning urge.

Sounded too good to me too when Ohio outfitter Don Matthews told us about the agreement he has with the Ojibway Indian nation. Don runs a salmon camp on the Garden River about an hours drive from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The camp is offered in three, five day segments in September, timed for the arrival of the pinks and Chinooks and includes everything except personal gear and fly rods. Nothing to do there but eat, sleep and fish. The camp will accommodate up to sixteen anglers and is usually full.



Three of us opted for the last leg in September last fall, hoping to also find some of the late arriving Atlantic salmon. We met up with Don and the rest of the crew the first morning and caravanned out to camp, arriving just as the cooks put a full breakfast on the table for us. The trip is unguided, although Don and his Ojibway counterpart, Ben, are there to offer plenty of help and provide transportation up and down the river. We listened to their instructions and by midmorning we were heading downstream from camp. Still within sight of camp we caught our first pinks. And second . And third.....enough to be tired of them pretty quick. Around a bend in the river and there they were. Big dark shadows in the river. Females on redds and males sparring and chasing and splashing. This old hillbilly got excited. We tied on the egg patterns and caddis larvae (#12 2X heavy hooks) we had tied for the trip and took turns hooking up and holding on. These big Chinook were fearless and strong, sometimes running into backing and sometimes just hunkering down. Eight weight rods and 10-12 lb. leaders were enough to land the bruisers.

Four days of fighting big fish on different parts of the river, plenty of good food, heated tents, swapping lies around the campfire with a bunch of good guys from all over - it was a good trip. And it took a month for the tendonitis in my right arm to heal.

For more info on the trip, contact Don at 330-565-5457 or online at [www.steelheadschool.com](http://www.steelheadschool.com).

*(Thanks to Bill, who, when he's not on a lake or a river somewhere, can be found helping out at Little River Outfitters in Townsend)*

## Member Profile

*(In an effort to help us get to know each other better, we will occasionally include Member Profiles in our newsletters and on the website. This month, we're profiling Dave Ezell.)*

Name: **Dave Ezell**  
**LRTU chapter board member, newsletter editor (4-years).**

Nickname: **Easy**

City / County Residence:  
**On Little River above the water plant, Maryville, TN**

General Family Info:  
**Father's family lived and grew up in Townsend, TN. Grandfather was postmaster there. Retired – more or less – Work summers at Little River Railroad Museum, Townsend. Aside from fishing, enjoy cabinet building, wood working, 5-year member of the East Tennessee Wood Guild. Married to Jeanne Ezell, for 35 years. A patient women who can put up with a fly fisherman. Two children, grown, Tavis Ezell (Knoxville) and Ashley Ford (Richmond, VA).**



Years Fly Fishing: Not nearly enough. After first picking up a fly rod as a teen growing up in Morristown, TN, took a hiatus as family and work intervened. After three years in the military as a Russian linguist and 20 years on the road based out of Kansas City and later Maryville - working in publishing and sales - finally had the opportunity to return to Tennessee and take up fly fishing once again.

Years Fly Tying / Rod Building / etc: Christmas gift of a vise and basic materials, started me tying last year. Still have a lot to learn here.

History of Fly Fishing:

- Mentors: **Early on, Wayne Sanders, in high school, who partnered in crime with me as we got up before dawn, cut school and fly fished the big horseshoe on**

Abrams creek on several occasions. Of late, Mike Stiehl, who introduced me to tailwaters fishing, Rufus King and Byron Begley.

- Key Memories: as a kid, living in Asheville, NC, and catching huge trout on Reems Creek with a sapling, line, and grasshoppers, while staying at a cabin owned by grandfather's employer.

Fly Fish Educational Activities: One of the most rewarding experiences was helping with the tying/casting class for high school kids at Gatlinburg Pi Beta Phi school. Helping kids at trout camp catch brook trout on Jake's Creek

Favorite Places to Fly Fish:

- Locally: Little River, Deep Creek, Road Prong Trail, Citico North Fork, Hazel Creek, Clinch, etc, etc.
- Outside The Local Area: Little Snowbird, Nantahala, White Top Laurel, Snokomish, Sol Duck, Yakima River.

**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](http://www.tu.org) or call 1-800-834-2419.**

**Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website [www.lrctu.org](http://www.lrctu.org)**