

Little River Chapter

Newsletter

FEB 2002

Editor Joe Hatton

Next Meeting



Fishing Weighted Nymphs in the Mountains

The next meeting is on the **fourth** Thursday February 28 at 7:00 pm. We are meeting at Monte Vista Baptist Church at 1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd. in Maryville. The church has an entrance on the opposite side of Hwy 129 between the BiLo and the Co-op Gas station

Program, Mr. Chuck Parker, who works for the GSMNP Service will discuss the "All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory" (ATBI) which needs to be completed as soon as possible. While a great deal is known about the GSMNP much more is not known. Experts estimate that only 10% of the Park's estimated 98,775 species are currently identified and know. There is an estimated 76,000 invertebrates in the Park and only 4280 are currently known. The Park receives some of there highest deposits of nitrates and sulfates in the eastern North America and this inventory is extremely important to understanding the GSMNP ecosystem which is being harmed by this pollution.

Chuck Parker will share information about the ATBI and discuss how volunteers can assist. Chuck, an expert entomologist by training and expertise is considered an expert on caddisflies. He will also share some information about caddisflies and other stream insects. (Continued on page two)

By: Walter Babb From November through early April is my favorite time of year to crawl the bottom with weighted nymphs. The water temperatures are usually in the forties and the trout are laying on the bottom and are not very active. Normally you have to get the fly on the bottom to catch one. There are always exceptions to every rule and a good Blue Wing Olive hatch will change my mind in a hurry. Also March brings Quill Gordons, Blue Quills and Brown Stoneflies, but day in and day out weighted nymphs are my first choice.

Fly selection, like anything else, is a matter of individual preference. Everyone has their favorites and these are the ones that have worked best for me over the years. Keep in mind that most of my fishing experience has been in the Tellico-Citico area and that other areas may require different flies and techniques. I almost always fish two flies. I've always felt I catch more fish when I give them a choice. The George nymph is probably the most consistent all around nymph I've ever fished and it is usually my dropper fly. My first choice for a bottom fly has always been a Blackburn Tellico nymph, but this last year I started using a Harvey Stonefly nymph and it has worked just as well. They are both good flies but the Harvey Stonefly nymph is easier to tie and more durable. (Continue on page two)

Program (continue from page one)

This should be very interesting to folks who fish in the Park. Anyone interested in the survival of the GSMNP ecosystem is welcome to come hear Mr. Parker's talk. It should be especially interesting to TU members since one of the three pillars of our mission is the collection

of scientific data. Chuck will explain how a person can contribute to the study while fishing in the Park. A real win-win situation!

I have some brochures if more information is needed. Also there is a web site: [Http://www.nps.gov/grsm/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm/index.htm) - that is if it is up and running. Another site is [Http://www.discoverlife.org](http://www.discoverlife.org) . Let me know if needed.

TomE

Fishing Weighted Nymphs in the Mountains

(Continue from page one) I almost always fish two flies. I've always felt I catch more fish when I give them a choice. The George nymph is probably the most consistent all around nymph I've ever fished and it is usually my dropper fly. My first choice for a bottom fly has always been a Blackburn Tellico nymph, but this last year I started using a Harvey Stonefly nymph and it has worked just as well. They are both good flies but the Harvey Stonefly nymph is easier to tie and more durable. Other nymphs that I've used over the with success are the Beadhead Pheasant Tail, Hare's Ear nymph, Original Tellico nymph, Pat's nymph, Prince nymph, Peeking Caddis, Isonychia nymph, and Mr. Rapidan emerger. This last nymph works well as a Quill Gordon nymph. I tie all these flies with different weights and different sizes.

To fish nymphs and detect strikes you have to have complete control of your flies. This means straight casts of short to medium length. During low water longer casts are

needed. I never use strike indicators but if you feel like they will help, by all means use them. A trout's take of a nymph is almost imperceptible, and a strike indicator may make the difference.

For tackle I like a 9 foot rod for a 6 weight double tapered line. Line color should be subdued but visible. My strike I indicator is the end of my fly line. Scientific Anglers GPX in a willow color is my favorite. Also Scientific Anglers Ultra 3 in a tan color is good. I tie my own leaders and use the Joe Humprey's formula. 15" of .017, 15" of .015, 15" of .013 and 15" of .011. This either Maxima or Mason stiff leader material. Then I add 12" of .009 and 20" of .008. The tippet is usually .007. I join the .008 and .007 with a blood knot and leave the end of the .008 about 4 inches long. The tippet should be about 20" to 24". The .009, .008 and .007 are softer materials such a Orvis Super Strong, Rio, or Climax. This leader can be shortened if necessary.

When I need to fish deep I use a Cortland one weight level line with this same type leader attached. I've fished with Joe Humprey's here and also in Pennsylvania and he was very successful fishing this line in deeper water. This system works for me and has been reasonably successful from New York and Maine to the Rocky Mountains. It's not the only way I fish, but it's usually my first choice. I hope it works for you

The March chapter meeting

Will feature a terrific talk on the future of recreational fishing, youth in fishing and freshwater stewardship by Kim Ryals our new TU Southeaster Coordinator. The March meeting is a don't miss opportunity to learn what is going on.

Stocking up

By: Keith Blanton If you are a fly-tyer, late winter is a great time to stock up the fly boxes for the coming fishing season.

Although some hardy souls (or hopeless fanatics, depending on your perspective) fish all year, most of us take a break or at least slow down during the cold months. I like to pursue furred or feathered game for awhile, and besides, I've never been crazy about having to knock the ice out of my rod guides or trying to tie on a #22 midge with fingers that feel like ice cubes.

I admit I have a love/hate relationship with fly-tying. I go for months at a time without tying a single fly, then in late winter I get almost obsessive about it and spend hours at a time at the vise. I guess it's the anticipation of spring fishing, along with the fear of not having enough of the right fly when the fish are biting.

The best way to get started is to go through your fly boxes, and make a list of the flies you're low on. Then inventory your fly tying equipment and materials, keeping in mind the materials needed for the flies you want to tie. Make a list of supplies needed, and head for the fly shop. As I said, this is the best way. Unfortunately, it's not how I usually do it. I usually make a trip to the store to get one specific item I know I'm missing, and end up buying a handful of spur of the moment or "just in case" items. This is how I end up without any #16 hooks, but with three packages of orange dubbing (left over from the last three impulse trips).

However you get your materials together, it is a good idea to be fairly organized and methodical about your tying. I find that it takes me at least 3-4 flies of a particular pattern to get "into the groove" where I have the proportions right and can remember the next **Little**

step in the process without having to think about it. Start with a simple pattern in a fairly large size, then move to smaller sizes and more complicated patterns. For example, tie a dozen #14 Thunderheads, then a dozen in size #16, then try a trickier pattern. When this gets boring, try something totally experimental to break up the monotony. Stick a #4 long-shanked hook in the vise and try a new streamer, or see if your cats fur will make good wet fly dubbing. Keep this up for a month or two and you will be well stocked for spring.

Little River Financial Report

We recently submitted our annual financial report to National for the year ending September 30th and want to share an short version with all the members.

We took in \$1575 and spend \$1548, which left the checkbook balance at \$769.76. We ain't broke but it sure isn't where we want to be! It would be a great objective for this year, with everyone's help, to move the decimal point over one notch.

Our income came from Raffles, Special events like at Metcalf Bottoms, Sale of Merchandise, Newsletter advertising and \$20 from membership rebates. We have already improved the membership rebate number with a check for \$65. Now we just need the same increase in the other items and we can be doing some of the things we want to do like new hats, scholarships, public awareness programs and some projects involving youth, and chapter development training as examples.

The biggest expense item was mailing the newsletter, \$882, followed by fishery scholarships of \$650. We also spent a small amount for merchandise. (continued on page four)

River Financial Report(continued from page three) Besides the cash in the bank our assets include approximately \$75 in merchandise that can be sold. Our most important asset is our member and we reported a total of 1104 volunteer hours; which we believe was a conservative number. This year we will keep closer track of what we do and how much time is involved.

Your Board of Directors hopes you appreciate getting this information and please let us hear any questions you have.

Little River Board of Directors

Eddie George Award

This is a **do not miss meeting** cause you may miss out on the rod. The custom build rod that will be presented as the 2001 Eddie George Award to a very deserving Little River TU member. It will be a special meeting with Little River's special recognition presented by a very special person. **Be there!**

TomE

Proposed land exchange

Gentlemen: As you know, a land exchange has been proposed between Cherokee and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. For many reasons this is a bad idea. Throughout the entire process, we have been under a gag order. So I think you can certainly understand why you never received this information from me. But I think there are several questions that need to be ask. If you have questions about any of these please let me know.

There have been many scientific studies completed in the Ravens Ford Tract since last summer and these are complete. But we have been ordered not to release these studies or

discuss them until the comment period is over. But group or an individual can file a **Freedom of Information Act** request and obtain copies of this information. If this occurs then I think it prudent to request (demand) that the comment period be extended so this information can be studied. (Chuck this may be a good thing for your group) For example, 55 species of invertebrates that were previously unknown to science have been found on this tract. Now if the Park Service is to protect and preserve naturally functioning ecosystems how can we consider trading away such a unique tract of land? Given that these species are new to science, are they or should they be listed under the Endangered Species Act? Once this information is in hand, I think that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) should be contacted and ask why this land is not being protected and what needs to be done to protect these unique species. Not just one or two people need to ask this question but everyone who writes to object to the land trade should also contact the USFWS. The Park Service and USFWS should be ask what special protection there is for this area.

Comments can be sent to the following:

Hard copy: Anita Jackson
National Park Service
Southeast Regional Office
100 Alabama St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

email: npslandexchange@saic.com
phone: 888-820-3644

I realize that I am asking a lot but **as many individual comments as possible** are needed to turn the tide. (continued on page five)

Proposed land exchange (continued from page four) Also if you have folks that can speak directly with the Director of the National Park Service or the Secretary of the Interior they need to do so. Rumor is that the former Director promised the Chief this land with no strings. I personally don't like this type of politics nor do I think we should give up this unique piece of land. If this is exchanged what is next, Hazel Creek, Yellowstone, ...? I wish to thank each of you in advance for your efforts here.
Steve Moore

From: John Richardson
Land O' Sky Chapter of TU has been and is one of the leading opponents of this proposed land swap. My predecessor, Steve Legeay, led the fight when other groups were still on the sidelines. We had an "op-ed" in the Citizen-Times last year outlining many of the reasons for opposing this ill-conceived land swap. We as a chapter have opposed this land swap on both science and principle. The reasons are as follows (and you can use them in your statement):

This land "swap" is a net land loss for the Great Smoky Mtns National Park. The tract proposed to be traded to the Park Service will NOT be part of the GSMNP.

The land in question is in a flood plain. It is not appropriate for development. Major floods in 1993 wiped out parts of the Cherokee's trout hatchery adjacent to Ravensford. To build a school in a flood plain is to put children at risk.

Ravensford has significant archaeological importance for both Native Americans and white pioneer settlers to this region. To pave over it and build over it is to destroy it forever. Ravensford is part of a National Park which is intended for use by ALL Americans. To re-

move it from the Park would only benefit a very small minority and is of dubious legality.

I could not get all the reason in the newsletter, if you like to receive a copy John Richardson letter e-mail at jthatton@Home.com, I will also bring extra copy to the meeting

Fly of the Month

Blue Winged Olive

The BWO is one of the most famous dry flies, complete chapters in books have been written about it. Even though you don't see large hatches of them in the mountains, they can be one of the largest and longest hatches on Eastern tailwaters and Western trout streams. I would not go to fish the Firehole in Yellowstone park with out them. Keeping several different patterns in you fly boxes is a good idea.

Name: Tashiro' Bubble Fly

Sizes: 14, 16, 18

Additional Colors: PMD, BWO

Hook: Extra-fine dry

Thread: 8/0 to match body color

Tail: Natural Mallard or Wood Duck

Body: Superfine Antron dubbing or thread on smallest flies.

Wing Post: Small piece of Styrofoam packing material

Hackle: Dun or Ginger Neck hack





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