

Little River Chapter Newsletter

Editor
Joe Hatton



Feb2007
www.lrctu.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the fourth Thursday Feb. the 22 nd, 7:00 P.M. 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 old Bi-Lo and the Co-op Gas station.

Program

Flytier's Meeting, some of the chapter best Fly Tier will be showing off some of their most productive fly patterns. All chapter members are invited to setup their fly tying equipment and share their knowledge.

Stream work

February Acid Deposition training session. The meeting will be at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 24 at Park Headquarters.

Newsletter notes

This month there are some Newsletter web-page links that I could not fit in the newsletter. The first is a fishing knot link, "Grog's Fishing Knots Index". This is an animated site with short demos on how to tie a number of fishing knots. Second, a detailed tying instruction for the Fly of the month. The TennHatchChart is posted on our website with a new format. I have asked some of our members to help update the fly patterns listed to include the newest fly innovations of recent years. Make sure to check the Chapter website for the latest information.

Fishing Report

Welcome to the Little River Chapter of TU Fishing Report. Right now it's February 6th, very cold and the streams here in the Smokies are low and clear. There's snow on the mountains up high. The water temperatures have been in the 32 degree range which is not good for trout fishing. By the time you get this report things could be different but most likely it we will still have winter conditions. The tailwaters have been fishing fairly well. I'm hearing mixed reports from the Clinch, South Holston, Holston and Hiwassee. But, most of the reports have been fairly good.

Rainfall at this point in the year is already almost 3" below normal. If we don't catch up it may be an interesting Spring. It probably will catch up, heck three or four weeks from now we may be wishing for less rainfall and lower water.

I am suffering from a severe case of "Cabin Fever". I can't seem to shake it. I sit here looking out at the mountains, knowing it's too cold to fish and I bet you have the same affliction. Yesterday I came up with a list of things I can do to recover, at least somewhat. Here's my list:

Buy a Tennessee Fishing License/Trout Stamp Go online and buy my Florida Saltwater Fishing License. Tie some flies every day, at least one or two. Go hiking →

after work on the Middle Prong gravel road. Go over to the gun club and shoot some sporting clays. Go outside every day and practice casting (I know I need it). Get all my gear ready, hanging in my office and ready to fish the Middle Prong at a moments notice.

We're all waiting for the first Spring hatches in the Smokies aren't we? Some years they have started as early as late February. Usually they occur in early March. It all depends on the water temperature. When the water reaches 45 degrees the fishing begins to pick up. At 50 degrees the Quill Gordon's will start hatching. Ross Shaver found an adult Quill Gordon a few weeks ago when the water temperature in the Little River got up to 50 degrees. That's rare. The mayfly hatches will be mostly gray in color, Quill Gordon and Blue Quill. There may be some Blue Wing Olives mixed in. Then you will start to see Dark Hendrickson, Red Quill and March Browns. The Spring hatches will start in the lower elevations where the water is warmer then move up to the higher streams. Spring makes it's way upstream so what you use depends on where you are.

This year I'm going to fish Lynn Camp Prong a lot. This may be our last chance for a few years. Lynn Camp will close in 2008 for the huge brook trout restoration project. I think Lynn Camp Prong will be one of the finest brook trout streams in the Eastern United States. Unfortunately for me and a lot of other fans of the creek, it's going to be closed for a few years. I talked to Steve Moore the other day. He is 2 years older than me. I'm 55. He and I are planning to fish Lynn Camp together the day it reopens. I'll most likely be 63 and he'll be 65. He will probably be retired and I'll still be working here I hope. I bet he'll be working here at the shop part time. But, I'm planning to hike up

there a lot during that time and watch this fine fishery evolve. I won't have a fly rod with me, just polarized sunglasses and a camera. But I'll be there watching, and dreaming.

Writing a fishing report is not an easy task in February but I hope you enjoyed it and thank you for supporting the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Byron Begley

Acid Deposition training session.

You are all invited to a planning meeting for the 2007 GSMNP Acid Deposition Sampling. The meeting will be at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 24 at Park Headquarters behind the Sugarlands Center. Some food will be provided, so you can sleep in a little extra before the meeting. We should be finished in the morning, leaving your afternoon free to hike, fish, or whatever in the Park. We hope everyone can attend but it is important for new volunteers to attend if at all possible. Thanks to the many new volunteers who signed up at the TU meetings, we will have large teams. This was a goal this year because as we get into summer and beyond, people have conflicts. We want to have plenty people available so there is no stress on team leaders and we can all get the job done with less effort. Things that will be covered in the meeting:

1. Getting to know each other
2. A review of the Acid Deposition Sampling Program to date
3. Description of each of the sample routes
4. Sign up for sample teams and dates for the six samples ending in January 2008
5. Review of procedures →

Again - I hope you can all make it on February 24. If you will not attend but want to be involved, please let me know before the meeting so I can plan the food and your available sample dates (the third weekend of every other month beginning in March).

Thanks so much.

Charlie Chmielewski

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Bamboo for Brookies 2007

Thanks again to all who supported the Bamboo for Brookies project in '06. Through your \$25.00 "donations" towards the TroutFest door prize last year we raised an extra \$3,500.00 with the bamboo rod. All money raised through TroutFest activities is used for Brook trout restoration efforts in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a place dear to all our hearts.

Thanks to Golden Witch Technologies for donating the reel seat for last years rod. Thanks to Little River Outfitters for donating all other components used in the making of the rod, and for displaying the rod in their store.

Now for an update on this years rod. The 2007 rod will be 7'4", 5wt., caramel in color. The reel seat, donated once again by Erica and Russ Gooding at Golden Witch is a cap and ring style with a beautiful burl wood spacer. The modified "cigar" style grip is made from 1/8" cork rings and features red glue lines. The silk guide wraps are garnet tipped in black. All components except the reel seat are donated this year by Yallerhammer Rods.

While Charlie Downs is working on the

rod, Roy Hawk and Doug Pape are finishing up the rod tube and display case which complete the set. The hexagonal, bamboo strip rod tube Roy made last year was truly a work of art. The case, which contains both the rod and the hex tube, is painstakingly crafted by Doug in beautiful hardwood and features a glass top for viewing the rod and tube.

Little River Outfitters has graciously agreed to display the rod again this year. They will also happily accept your \$25.00 "donations" toward a "door prize" ticket.

We hope to have the rod finished and displayed at LRO the first of March. The tickets will be available at this months meeting. For more TroutFest info, and photos of last years rod visit lroctu.org and follow the links.

Fly of the month

Herl-Bodied Dry Fly Pattern

Hook: Tiemco #101/#100 or Daiichi 1180

Thread: Black 8/0

Wing: Mallard Flank Dyed Yellow

Tail: Medium Dun spade hackle fibers

Abdomen: Stripped peacock herl

Thorax: Peacock herl

Hackle: Medium dun



The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit volunteer organization that is committed to Protecting & Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

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