

LITTLE RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Editor
Mark Sebby



February 2008
www.lrctu.org

Next Meeting

When: February 28, 2008 at 7:00pm
(4th Thursday of the month)

Where: MonteVistaBaptistChurch
1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd in Maryville. The church has an entrance on the opposite side of Hwy 129 between the red light and the Co-op.

Program: Greg Shaffer will speak on the subject of biotic integrity (water quality) in East Tennessee and present results of his graduate study of smallmouth bass in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Upcoming Events

Bass Pro Shops Spring Fishing Classic Cook-Out
March 8-9, 15-16 (Volunteers Needed!!!)

Pi Beta Phi Elementary School Support – Fly-tying and casting instruction at school. March 10,11,17

TU Tennessee License Plate



Time is running short for orders of the Tennessee Trout Unlimited license plate. As of January close to 300 plates have been sold,

700 short of the 1000 needed to go into production. We have until June 30th. Several fly shops across the state, including Little River Outfitters in Townsend, are offering incentives to order the TU plate. The money will be used for trout projects throughout the state. It will also enable some of our smaller chapters to do projects they did not have funds to do before. Show your support and order yours today at www.tuplate.org

Fishing in the Smokies

It has been a strange winter in the Smokies. It has been hot, then cold with almost no snow except in the highest elevations. Thankfully, our rainfall has been normal since December 1st. The streams look great. I am hoping the rain will continue and fishing this Spring will be back to pre-drought excellence.

Fishing in the mountains has been fair at times but, like most winters, the water temperature has been in the 30s and 40s. Only the best anglers can make those conditions work for them.

Since I don't fish tailwaters, or at least hardly ever, I've done more hiking than fishing as of late. The Smokies are beautiful in the winter. You see things you would normally miss in the other seasons. And you are not bothered with a lot of people.

It's been months since I've seen a tuber, though I have seen a lot of kayaks. The paddlers have had a good winter with the exception of my friend David. He had a rock planted firmly in his forehead last weekend. He ended up at Blount Memorial Hospital and left with 32 stitches.

The Spring hatches are not far off. Sometimes we see Quill Gordons hatching in late February, but they could wait until the middle of March. Who knows? I am ready to spend some days on Lynn Camp Prong. This will be our last opportunity to fish there for a few years. In a month I should be able to report on some good fishing in the Smokies and I'm looking forward to that.

Have a great February and get ready to catch wild trout in the most beautiful place on earth.

Byron Begley @ Little River Outfitters, Townsend

On-Stream Report – NEW!!!

The cold temps have kept us fishing the tail-waters as much as possible; specifically, the Watauga River and Caney Fork. We have floated the Watauga three times, from Blevins Road to Persinger Bridge (aka, Steam Plant). We have twice-waded the Caney, along Lancaster Road and Betty's Island.

Double nymph rigs with a rubber-leg black Copper John and a midge/caddis dropper have been productive. We also are using dry droppers with an EHC or Adams dry and a midge/caddis dropper.

One very effective fly both last year and this year has been the Quasimodo Pheasant Tail. It is basically a bead-head Flashback Pheasant Tail tied on a curved nymph hook. The black rubber-legged Copper John is another fly that has been producing well. Though I mainly use the Copper John as weight to get my midge down quickly in heavy water, I've noticed that I catch a good number of fish on it as well.

Also, don't overlook the streamers this time of year, especially if the water has a good tinge to it. The big fish are still hungry from spawning and it is a good time to coax one to the fly. I prefer Cone-Head Zuddlers and Todd's Wiggle Minnow. If you want to get serious about streamers, consider using sink tip lines and learn the non-slip knot.

The next two months on the Watauga should bring out some BWOs. Last year we had some great days fishing emerger BWO patterns, cripples and CDC Comparadun BWOs. For nymphs, I would probably go to the Quasimodo Pheasant tail dropped shallow under a larger Blue Wing Olive pattern.

Don't over look the tail-waters, they are a bit more of a drive, but the water temps are not affected by the weather and they produce consistent fishing all year long. You can read more detailed trip reports on my new website www.flyfishtennessee.com, and check out the blog section. On March 22nd at 1:00pm I will be giving a presentation about Spring tail-water fishing in the store. Please stop by if you are not out on the stream yourselves.

Tight lines,

Kris Maurer @ Orvis - Sevierville

Tennessee Delayed Harvest Areas

When the cold weather sets in and the trout fishing gets tough, there are several stocked streams that are closed to harvest from October 1st through March 14th. TWRA's Delayed Harvest regulation provides a winter catch & release fishery with the goal of increasing the chances of catching large trout.

These streams may not be places you normally fish, but the past few months have given the fish a chance to grow to a larger size. This is a good reason to explore some new areas. The Gatlinburg trout streams provide a unique opportunity since your family can hit the shops while you slip down the bank to get in a few hours of fishing. No matter which stream you decide to fish it is a great excuse to get out of the house for a day.

The following areas have delayed harvest regulations:

Paint Creek (Green County): From Paint Creek Campground downstream to mouth at French Broad River.

Tellico River (Monroe County): From the mouth of Turkey Creek upstream to the mouth of North River.

Gatlinburg Trout Streams (Sevier County): West Prong Little River, Dudley Creek, Roaring Fork, LeConte Creek. Angler must have a Gatlinburg one-day permit (type 99-cost is \$3.50 per day). Fishing is closed every Thursday year round.

Joe Hatton

Editor's Note

At the last meeting, Linda Goode presented the "Back the Brookie" Classroom Program. Several people have asked how they could get a copy of the DVD. They can e-mail Linda Good, tnlindagood@gmail.com or they can write Linda at 35 Shallowbrook Lane, Gray, TN 37615 and ask for the presentation pack. I would recommend sending Linda a donation, in an amount of your choice, to help pay for CD and postage, etc.

Please send newsletter ideas and article submissions to msebby@charter.net.

Stream Work

Complete Park Fisheries Volunteer schedule for 2008.

2008 GRSM Fisheries Volunteer Sampling Schedule

The following list is designed to make individuals and volunteer groups, who would like to assist fisheries activities in the Park, aware of upcoming project dates and meeting locations. If you need further information, please contact Matt Kulp (865-426-1254)

Date	Sample Type	Priority	# TU Volunteers	Cooperators *
January 19-20 #	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	8 - 10	TU, NPS, UT
February 16	Acid Deposition Training Session - Park HQ, Gatlinburg (9:00AM) - FREE breakfast	High	All Group Leaders / Need Volunteers!	TU, NPS, UT
February 28	Public Fisheries Presentation - 2007 drought, BKT restoration, etc. - Wears Valley, TN Fire Dept 7 pm	Medium		NPS
March 15-16 #	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	8 - 10	TU, NPS, UT
March 17	Project FISH - Pi Beta Phi, Gatlinburg, TN - meet at Metcalf Bottoms at 9am	Medium	8 - 10	NPS, TU
April 12	TN Little River Clean-Up Day - meet at Metcalf Bottoms picnic area (9:00AM)	Medium	All Volunteers	NPS, TU, Others
April 26	NC Oconaluftee River Clean-Up Day - meet at Collins Creek picnic area (9:00AM)	Medium	All Volunteers	NPS, TU, Others
May 16 - 18	TROUTFEST ¹ - Little River Trout Festival (Townsend, TN)	High	FYI	TU, NPS, TWRA
May 17-18 #	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	8 - 10	TU, NPS, UT
June 2 - 14	Lynn Camp Prong Open Fishing Program - will need volunteers to operate a check station on lower Lynn Camp	High	1 - 2 per day	TU, NPS
June 30 - July 1	Bear Creek Evaluation - re-sample monitoring sites & evaluate brook trout	Medium	Any	NPS, TU
July 7 - 10	Lynn Camp Prong Prep Work - re-sample monitoring sites & collect discharge, dye times, etc.	Medium	Any	NPS, TU
July 19-20 #	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	8 - 10	TU, NPS, UT
August 11 - 13	Bunches & Flat Creek Evaluation - High elevation brook trout electrofishing	High	2 - 3	NPS, TU
September 2 - 6	Lynn Camp Prong Restoration Prep Work - meet at Lynn Camp trailhead; call fisheries office for details	Medium	4 - 6	TU, NPS
September 20-21 #	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	8 - 10	TU, NPS, UT
September 26 - 27	Large Stream Sample - Cataloochee Creek - Cataloochee church site Fri, USGS gauge station site Sat - call fisheries office for meeting times & locations	High	12 - 15	TU, NPS, NCWRC
November 15-16 #	Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample	High	8 - 10	TU, NPS, UT

* Cooperator: TU - Trout Unlimited
NPS - National Park Service
UT - The University of Tennessee

TWRA - Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
NCWRC - North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
FFF - Federation of Fly Fisherman
1. Contact Joe Hatton at jthattont@knology.net or 865-567-0410 for info on TroutFest

- Contact Charlie Chmielewski for team leader info and contact info -
Charlie Chmielewski (h) 986-1171, (cell) 661-7324 cchm@charter.net

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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**It is still winter in Townsend.
Spring will be here soon.**

We are getting ready for you. The new gear is arriving and our Beginner Fly Fishing Classes start in March. The rivers are looking good. It is going to be a "fishing year". Thanks LRCTU for your support.

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Stop by or call about our monthly
fishing seminars, schools and tying classes