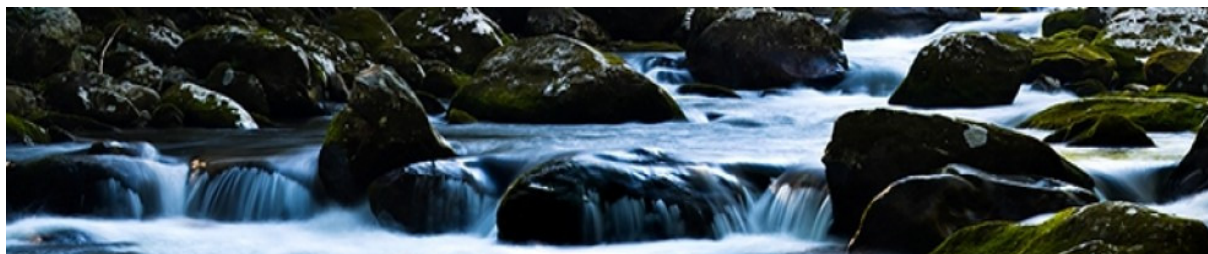


# Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## FEBRUARY 2014 Newsletter



### President's Corner

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

I've never been one to make New Year's resolutions. I guess subconsciously I knew I wouldn't be able to keep them. But I normally do take a couple of minutes to think about the year ahead and set some goals. I find it helpful that a little thought and planning goes a long way to staying focused on my priorities and not let the countless everyday demands that we all face get in the way. So making a kind of mental list of things I want to accomplish helps keep me on track. Regarding flyfishing, my goal is to lace up my wading boots to fish in the Park at least a hundred times this year. I plan to earnestly start exploring and fishing a couple of our local tailwaters (probably the Clinch, Holston or the South Holston). I plan to continue chasing brookies at least once at Greenbrier. And Jan and I will be expanding our fishing opportunities with our fishing kayaks. This will be on top of trips planned to the Everglades and Alaska. Looks to be a busy year (just the way I like it)!

Regarding our Chapter plans, we will be expanding our activities from last year, including a Troutfest Banquet and Auction (April 25), expanded Chapter trips and developing a youth education program. By our very nature, folks who fish are optimists and we have a lot to be excited and optimistic about this coming year. We are building on our successes and but we can only be successful in the future with your help.

I mentioned earlier that Jan and I will be spending some time in the Everglades. I've bought several books on backcountry fly fishing and tying saltwater patterns. For those who like to tie their own flies, one book I would recommend is Drew Chicone's "Feather Brain – Developing, Testing & Improving Saltwater Fly Patterns". Drew does a nice job of introducing some new techniques, new materials and fly patterns. Though aimed at saltwater flyfishing, much of the information is applicable to cold and warmwater fly designs we use in our part of the world. This isn't a beginner's book, but one worth having in your library.



**Troutfest – Hold That Date (April 25)**

The Troutfest Committee is busy planning the April 25 Troutfest Banquet and Auction. This will be our major fundraiser with proceeds going to the GSMNP. So hold that date, make sure you buy your tickets and bring a friend. Check out the article below for more information.

I'm ready for Spring! I hope to see you at the February meeting. Be safe.

Mike

## **!LOCATION CHANGE FOR FEBURARY MEETING!**

In the spirit of trying something new, our February 27 meeting will be held at Calhouns restaurant in Maryville (across from the Target store). Meeting at Calhouns will enable folks to have dinner before the meeting. This is a great opportunity for folks to come straight from work and / or folks who travel a bit longer distance. The food is good and reasonable.

Please note – you are not obligated to order dinner to attend the meeting. All are welcome whether you have dinner or not. The February meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. The back room will be open for TU members as early as 6:00 p.m. for dinner if you chose to eat there. Rick Murphree (Tennessee TU Council President) will be our program speaker discussing TU activities in our state. The restaurant is located in the same complex as Target, in Maryville, at the intersection of Highway 129 & Highway 321 next to Smoky Mountain Brewery. Join us for dinner with our program beginning at 7 p.m.

The topic for this month's meeting will be an update on Trout Unlimited activities in the state of Tennessee: Including, upcoming activities, conservation, brook trout restoration and other financially supported state programs.

Our speaker will be Rick Murphree. Rick has been involved with Trout Unlimited for 30 years. Over the past 18 months Rick has served as chairman of the Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited. Rick has served as Tennessee's representative to Trout Unlimited's National Resource Board, the predecessor to the current National Leadership Council. From 2004-2010 he served as a grassroots member of the TU National Board of Trustees, was selected as one of the inaugural members to the Board.

Rick retired in 2013 from the First Tennessee Bank. He and his wife Gracie live in Knoxville and enjoy traveling in their camper and spending time with their 3 grandsons.

Come and enjoy bbq and/or your favorite beverage and this Trout Unlimited update.



## Troutfest News

What will you be doing on April 25 that would be more fun than joining the Little River Trout Unlimited Chapter at the 2014 Troutfest Banquet and Benefit Auction?

Preparations are continuing for our biggest event of the year which will be held on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Knoxville Airport Hilton Hotel. As the primary fundraiser for the Little River Chapter we need the help of all chapter members, friends, and supporters to help make the event a success and generate the funding necessary to help us achieve our goals for support of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Fisheries Department, Friends of the Smokies Fisheries Scholarship Fund and other youth educational conservation projects.

Troutfest 2014 promises to be a great evening with social time, fish story swapping, and catching up with old friends, followed by a delicious dinner buffet. The menu this year will feature pork tenderloin, marinated chicken and a variety of side dishes. The highlight of the evening will be the silent and live auctions with a wide range of items donated by our members, sponsors, industry vendors, local businesses and others. A full list of items will be released prior to the event, but items already committed include a custom bamboo rod, flies, original art, guide trips, fishing gear, non-fishing items and more.

How can you help?

- Attend the banquet! We hope there is a high percentage of attendance by our Chapter members. Invite a friend, or better yet, bring a friend along. Tickets are \$50 each and will go on sale by February 15. Please visit the Chapter website [www.lrctu.org](http://www.lrctu.org) or the Troutfest site at [www.Troutfest.org](http://www.Troutfest.org) for information on purchasing tickets. We encourage you to purchase tickets early.
- If you are attending the banquet from out of the area, we invite you to make a weekend out of it and do some fishing while you are in the area. Late April is a great time to fish the Smokies, or our surrounding tail waters. (Hint: utilize the social time at the banquet to talk the locals out of some inside information. They may not give up their secret spots, but would gladly point you in the right direction to put you into some fish. Better yet, book a trip with one of great local guides who generously support Troutfest.) If you need lodging, the Knoxville Airport Hilton is offering a special rate on rooms, check the Troutfest website for a link to the special Troutfest rate. There are also many options for motels, cabins, campgrounds, etc. in Townsend, Gatlinburg, or Pigeon Forge, which also offer many possibilities for attractions, dining, and shopping for the whole family.

- We need quality items for the live and silent auctions. The more donated auctions, the more funds we can generate to support the Great Smoky National Park Fisheries. If you have items you would like to donate, or know of contacts for fishing, or non-fishing related gift items to be donated, please contact Chuck James [Chuck3185@gmail.com](mailto:Chuck3185@gmail.com) (865) 458-6904 or Mike Bryant [mjbryant1954@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbryant1954@hotmail.com) (513) 697-9576.

Looking forward to seeing you April 25,  
The Troutfest 2014 Committee

## HIGH WATER A CHALLENGE FOR YOUNG BROOK TROUT



We had a great Chapter meeting last month. Matt Kulp (GSMNP Fisheries Biologist) did a masterful job of explaining (via data) why Lynn Camp Prong will continue to be close to fishing at least through this year. I could never explain it as well as Matt did, but major floods over the past couple of winters have devastated the young brookies, lowering overall populations to levels that cannot support fishing pressure. Matt also talked about how brook trout genetic studies will be an important tool in ensuring the long term survival of the species.

While there continues to be successful brook trout restoration programs in the Park and in other parts of the country, scientists are now beginning to understand how important connectivity between different populations is to their long-term survival. If given the opportunity, different brook trout populations will share genes (over long periods of time) enabling the species to develop the greatest evolutionary potential needed to handle future environmental threats. Without this sharing of genes, isolated populations may not be able to overcome these environmental changes. Interesting stuff!



# Volunteers NEEDED!

## **REMEMBER: Annual Breakfast Meeting on the Acid Deposition Sampling Program.**

**When and Where:** Saturday February 22, 9:00 AM at the Park Service Twin Creeks Science Center in Gatlinburg. (A map showing access to the location of the facility can be found this link:

[https://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s\\_d&saddr=knoxville,+tn&daddr=35.687104,-83.501158](https://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=knoxville,+tn&daddr=35.687104,-83.501158) )

**What is the Meeting about:** Each year we have a meeting with volunteers for the Acid Deposition Sampling Program. With 20 years of data and the retirement of Steve Moore, the creator of the program, we will be reviewing the history and reflecting on the results of the data and changes in air emissions.

### **Who should attend:**

Anyone wanting to help gather samples this coming 12 months.

Anyone interested in learning about the program or the results of the past 20 years of sampling is invited to attend.

### **Meeting Agenda:**

Breakfast is free.

A short history of the program.

Data trends over the 20 years of sampling.

For those who will volunteer to sample we will continue with the following:

A short training overview of the process .

A draft sampling schedule of volunteers will be prepared.

The meeting is expected to finish by noon or earlier.

**Please contact Charlie Chmielewski at 865-661-7325 or by e-mail at [charlieflyfish@gmail.com](mailto:charlieflyfish@gmail.com) if:**

You will attend the meeting (head count needed for food)

You want more information about the meeting or the program

## Steve Moore to fish/hunt more... eventually

After transitioning to retirement, Steve Moore, Great Smoky Mountain National Park Supervisory Fisheries Biologist, plans to be on the business end of a fly rod and in one of his deer stands in South

Carolina more often, but not until he makes a dent in the "honey do" list that his wife Susan has been keeping handy, he said.



Meanwhile, it was payback time Saturday night, Feb. 1, in Sevierville as over two hundred family, friends, and coworkers gathered to roast the long-time Park Services employee. The "rest of the story" about the blueberries, bears, brook trout, and backcountry

LRCTU President Mike Bryant and Bill Bollinger present Steve with a check for 2013 grants totaling more than \$14,000.



security could finally be told as part of the celebration of Steve's illustrious career.

Steve made his retirement official as of January 11, 2014 and is now working hard at being the world's best "Bepa" (just ask his granddaughter, Steph). Presenters made presentations, speakers made speeches, impersonators had a heyday, and everybody laughed. But all was done in a spirit of respect, appreciation, and admiration for Steve and his many accomplishments.

The common theme throughout the evening was the positive influence Steve has had both in the lives of the many young men and women who worked for him through the years, as well as those of us who had the good fortune to work along side him as volunteers in the park. Best wishes, Steve and Susan, from your many friends in the LRCTU.

**In his own words, Steve thanks the members of LRCTU:** *"I wish to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Little River Chapter of TU for all you did to support my retirement party. But most of all I cannot begin to say how grateful I was to receive the brook trout piece created by Jim Wiley. It is beautiful and hangs in a place of honor in our living room."*

*"To be honest, I find it hard to believe that my career with the National Park Service has ended. I'm not sure how the years have passed so quickly. I have truly been blessed throughout my career, a career that started with God placing a country boy from western North Carolina in his dream job. My career has been filled with learning and hard work and many of you were by my side many times. We have gathered scientific data that has helped guide our fisheries program, collected water quality data that is being used to guide research related to acid deposition issues. All of this has led to an outstanding partnership that has been recognized nationally within the National Park Service and TU. A partnership based on trust and mutual respect. But for me the friendships that have developed will last a lifetime."*

*"Again thank you for the gift and all that you have done over the years. I will be in the area so please stay in touch and I'll do the same. Hopefully many of will finally get a day on the stream together."*

*Sincerely, Steve Moore*

## **Get on Board for a Chapter Fishing Outing This Year!**

This year we have four trips planned. The first will be to Cataloochee River on March 21 and 22. The club has reserved group site 1 at the Cataloochee campgrounds. In the group campsite, we have room for 25 people with 5 vehicles so we will have to buddy up for the trip to the valley. This is a tent only site. If members wish to take a camper vehicle, please make your own reservation for an appropriate site. This is a rich historical area and should make for an interesting trip.

**Second** planned trip is to the Oconaluftee River. The club will be staying at the Smokemont campground. The date for this trip has not been selected yet but will be after Labor Day. When the date is selected, it will be in the news letter and at the club meetings.

**Third** trip is to Twenty Mile Creek. This creek has the distinction of being the most remote creek that can be reached by car. Two options are available for this trip. It can be done as a day trip or a back country camping trip. A fall trip is planned for this trip to see if the rumors are true that there maybe lake run rainbows in the stream.

The **fourth** trip is the bonus trip. We are planning a Steelhead fishing trip to eastern Ohio. Mentor, Ohio will be the base of operation for this trip. That will give access to the Ashtabula River, Conneaut Creek and the Grand, Chagrin and Rocky Rivers in the Cleveland Park System. This is a water level dependent trip. The steelhead move out of the Lake Erie on high water but high water is not always fishable so timing is everything.

If you have question about the trips, contact Ernie Frey at [ernest.frey@comcast.net](mailto:ernest.frey@comcast.net) or call 403-2832.

**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.**

**Note: Anyone with news, such as an event or account of a fishing trip, etc., please send it along to newsletter editor, Dave Ezell [ezop@charter.net](mailto:ezop@charter.net)**

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