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STREAMS OF THOUGHT—NOTES FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

WISDOM COMES WITH WINTERS. — Oscar Wilde

Ok—I think I have built up enough ‘Winter Wisdom’ (ala Oscar Wilde), I want to put it to use!! But I checked the air temperature at the house this morning—in the mid-20s. There is still snow on the mountains which means mostly cold melt water getting to the mountain streams. I also checked water temperatures this morning—Cataloochee in the mid-30s and Little River, high-30s. Even the eternal optimist Byron Begley, in his daily fishing blog the day of this writing, said that ‘don’t expect good fishing’. Bah, humbug! But, having said that there are folks out there doin’ good. Charity posted a pic of recent rainbow she caught while out in the Park (would you expect anything less?) and I have a friend who is a newbie to fly fishing, but is

hooked, mostly because of recent success on the Holston. So, there are fishable places out there. I hope you have been able to find some!

This month's chapter meeting presenter is Britteny Whipple of Keep Blount Beautiful. This is particularly timely because Keep Blount Beautiful, through the efforts of Britteny, has joined us in our Pistol Creek cleanup efforts. She has been responsible for getting the word out to local media and other area conservation groups (we just got a plug from the Little River Watershed Alliance). I look forward to hearing about the group she heads as well as working with Keep Blount Beautiful and other groups to expand our Pistol Creek Cleanup effort. And with time, maybe we can get some increased participation in our annual Little River cleanup in the Park.

Our Trout in the Classroom program continues to move forward. The word is spreading of the success of TIC; we now have 4 schools on the waiting list. We want to incorporate these schools but need volunteer help to make their wish a reality. Contact Jim Jeswald if you are interested.

Tight Lines!

Steve Y

**MEETING - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24 @ BLUETICK TAVERN,
MARYVILLE**

Brittany Whipple, Executive Director of Keep Blount Beautiful is going to talk about what Keep Blount Beautiful does and how they work with other non-profits to help keep Blount County clean and beautiful.

Social hour starts at 6:00 pm, program starts at 7:00 pm. See you there!



PISTOL CREEK CLEANUP ANNOUNCEMENT FROM LITTLE RIVER WATERSHED

Pistol Creek Cleanup with Trout Unlimited

- Saturday, March 26, 2022
- 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The Little River Watershed Association is joining forces with the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Keep Blount Beautiful for a cleanup of the Little River and its tributaries after the winter stocking season. We will meet at the Blount County Courthouse at 9 am and will cleanup Pistol Creek around Bicentennial Park.

Trash bags, gloves, pickers, safety vests, and a limited number of waders will be provided. Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants and closed-toed shoes that can get wet.

LRCTU AUCTION NETS \$4000 FOR GSMNP FISHERIES

The First Annual LRCTU Auction, led by Larry Davis and Bob Bishop, was a success. \$4,000 was raised and donated to the Fisheries Department of the GSMNP. The picture below, while bluish in tint because of the indoor lighting, is not a reflection of the positive feelings around the donation that was presented to Caleb Abramson of the GSMNP Fisheries Department by Steve Young, Chapter President, Bob Bishop, Chapter Vice President, and Larry Davis, Auction Coordinator. In expressing his thanks, Matt Kulp, GSMNP Supervising Fisheries Biologist, said that the funds will be used “to support seasonal hires to cover the various projects outlined by Caleb in his presentation to the Chapter”.



PISTOL CREEK WINTER STOCKING PROGRAM

Once again, it was a successful winter for those fishing for stocked trout on Pistol Creek in downtown Maryville. The last stocking took place Thursday, February 10. TWRA tells us that this is the second most successful location in the state of Tennessee.

Ernie and I took a friend there on Friday the 11th. He's never caught a trout. He did manage to see one and even had a bite. We think we have him "hooked". He says he wants to go up into the Park and fish with us.

There were some big ones caught, check out the smile on this little guy!



TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

It appears that the eggs in all the schools have hatched. They will be in the alevin stage for a couple more days and then let loose into the tanks. Do you know what the picture is below? If not, volunteer with the Trout in the Classroom program.



TIE AND LIE - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28 AT CASUAL PINT, MARYVILLE



Come join us at 6:30 for some stories, adult beverages, and of course, some tying. Ron Becker, one of the early members of our chapter, will be tying some of his maribou nymphs.

BUGS AND FLIES

Early Brown Stoneflies (EBS) are one of the earliest Eastern and Midwestern hatches. Beginning in early-to-mid March, after spending the past year hidden in the stream's bottom debris, the EBS reddish-brown nymphs migrate to the shoreline, crawl out of the water, and morph into adults.

Measuring from a half to three-quarters of an inch in length, adults sport dark,

grayish-brown colors that will vary from stream to stream. EBS adults have four highly veined wings that lie uniformly flat over their extended abdomen when at rest. They have six spider-like and conspicuously long antennae.

Early Brown Stonefly

Hook: 2xl dry #14 - #18

Thread: Brown

Body: Brown Dubbing

Wing: Grizzly Hackle

Hackle: Grizzly



SPRING CAMPING TRIP @ ROAN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK - MAY 13-15

David Tolliver has booked a full-day floating trip on a tailwater (either Watugua or South Holsten) through Trophy Water Guide Service with owner/guide Justin on Saturday, May 14. Justin says that should be a great time of year for Browns running up from Boone Lake. Dave is looking for a second person to share the trip

and cost. Total cost to be split is \$500 plus tip. You can contact Dave if you're interested at detolliver@icloud.com or 703-599-4648.

NEW MEMBERS as of the 15th of the prior month

Jeremy Hedrick

Welcome to the Little River Chapter of TU. Our Chapter was established years ago as a nonprofit volunteer organization committed to protecting and restoring cold water resources and watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We hope to be able to offer you plenty of activities to join us in our mission. As a member you will receive our monthly newsletter issued around the 15th of each month. In addition, you will also receive email notifications of any activities that may be happening during the month. As you can see above, our live meeting is the 4th Thursday of each month, held at the Bluetick Tavern in Maryville. Social hour starts at 6:00 with chapter business and the month's program starting at 7:00. Feel free to visit our website at lrctu.org or contact any of the Board Members for information.

We welcome you once again to our Chapter and hope your contribution will help greatly in the success of our Chapter. Feel free to contact me at lrctu.newsletter@gmail.com for any information you need.

MEMBERS OUT THERE FISHING

No fishing pictures this time, but Will and Larry Davis, Dave Weingold, Ernie Frey, and yours truly went to the FlyFishing Expo in Atlanta. Will was a Celebrity Tyer on Tyer Row. Although not in the picture, we ran into Dave Ezell there too.

Get out there!

Joyce Frey
Newsletter Editor



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