



FEBRUARY 2024

NOTES FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

The LRCTU Board of Directors approved a \$10,000 donation to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) Fisheries Department. Over \$9,000 of this donation is proceeds from the LRCTU Auction and the remaining amount is from monetary contributions from members and the Chapter's general fund. Thanks to everyone for supporting the auction and generously volunteering for a variety of Chapter projects.

The annual GSMNP Fisheries Department Volunteer's meeting will be held at Twin Creeks Science Center on February 17 at 9:00 a.m. Matt Kulp, GSMNP Supervisory Fisheries Biologist, will summarize the results of last year's projects and discuss volunteer opportunities with the Fisheries Department in the coming year. Volunteer opportunities will include water sampling in support of acid deposition studies, index of biotic integrity stream surveys, brook trout restoration and monitoring, and stream barrier surveys supporting aquatic organism passage studies. At the conclusion of this meeting, the Chapter will present the \$10,000 donation from the Little River Chapter to the GSMNP Fisheries Department.

Bob Bishop
President

STREAM BARRIER SURVEY WORK AT LITTLE RIVER GORGE, METCALF BOTTOMS AND CADES COVE

Now that the weather has warmed the Stream Barrier Survey teams are out in full force. Survey teams made significant progress in the Cades Cove and Little River Gorge areas since the beginning of February. Over 50% of the Phase 2 survey locations have been evaluated with eight-one (81) sites remaining to be surveyed. If you are interested in working on a Stream Barrier Survey team contact Bernie Maloy

(52bazzman@gmail.com).



MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 @ BLUETIK TAVERN IN MARYVILLE

Social hour starts at 6:00, program starts at 7:00, business meeting follows.

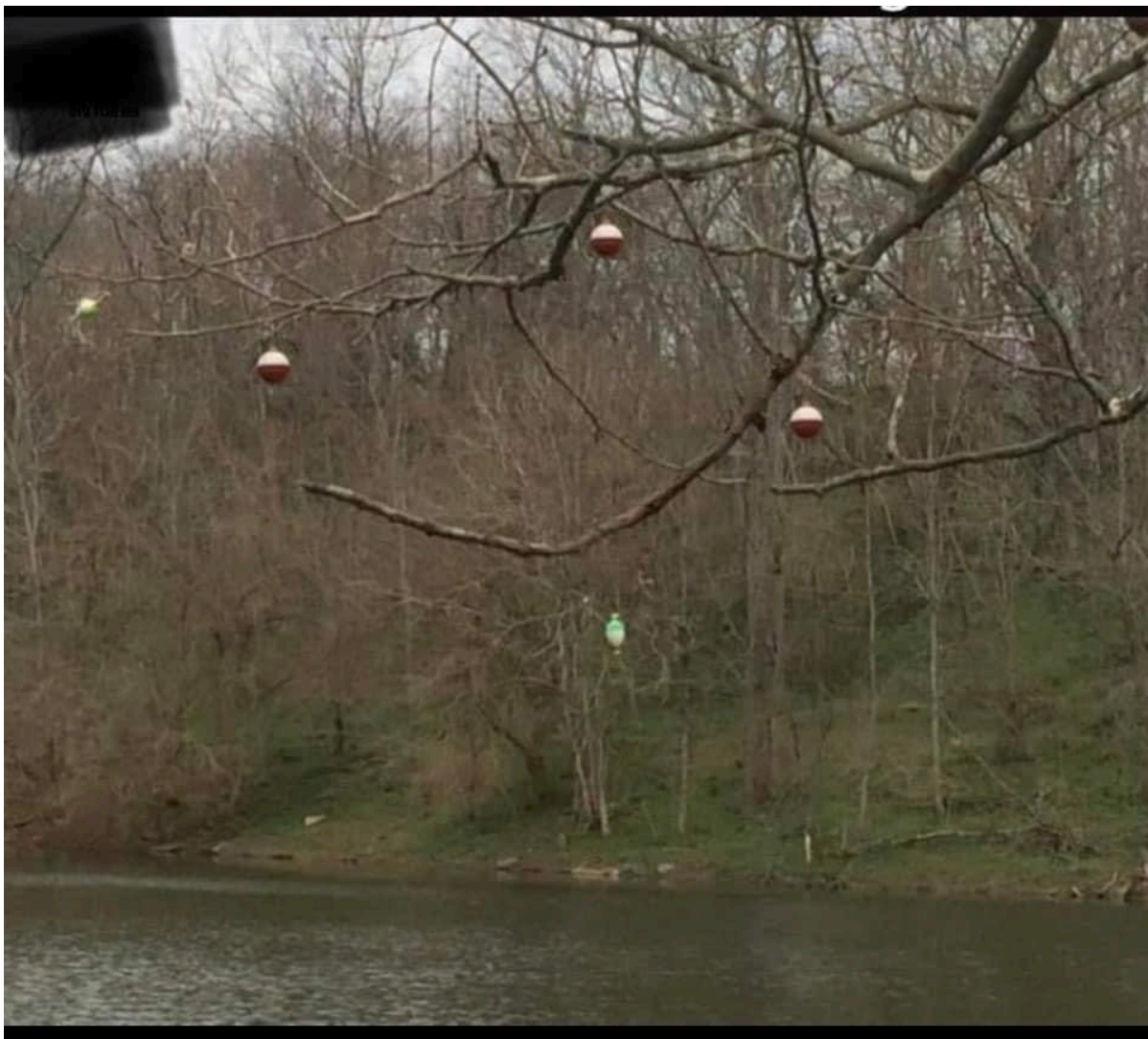
Ordering from the menu will be in the meeting room from 6:15 to 6:30. After 6:30 you will need to order any food at the bar. Adult beverages must be ordered and paid at the bar.

Dave Carson is the featured speaker. Many of you know Dave because of his willingness to share information with customers at Little River Outfitters in Townsend.

He is a fly fishing instructor and has worked as the Fly Fishing Department Manager at Orvis Sevierville and was the Norton Creek Riverkeeper for over 10 years. Dave's presentation will focus on Fishing the Smokies.



PISTOL CREEK CLEAN-UP - SATURDAY, MARCH 9



The first of our semi-annual commitment to the City of Maryville to do a cleanup of "our" mile of Pistol Creek from the S321 bridge to the Blount County library ponds after the winter trout stocking program by TWRA will be held Saturday, March 16.

Join us at 9:00 at the Old Blount County Courthouse parking lot in Maryville.

We will provide bags, gloves and grabbers. Wear clothes and shoes you don't mind getting wet and/or dirty. You can also choose to wear waders and boots to get a closer stream experience.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM



Eggs were delivered to 8 of our schools participating in the spring program. The other 4 schools are still raising their rainbows from the October eggs. As of this writing, the eggs (that are in a web style basket) have hatched into the alevin stage (they still have their eggsac). In another week they will start to be taught to eat and then approximately a week after that, they will be released into the tanks.

Once again, the Townsend KOA has allowed us to use their facility for our release activities. A couple schools have already selected dates toward the end of April. The remaining schools will release their rainbows by end of the school year in May. Start looking for a request for volunteer help for these activities. If you haven't ever attended a release, give it a try, it's lots of fun.

Below are pictures of receiving the eggs at the hatchery. The package of 3,377 eggs from the Federal Hatchery in Erwin, TN were received at the Buffalo Springs Hatchery in Rutledge, TN on January 31. They were weighed, then split into the number of schools for the season. In addition to the 8 schools and community tank for LRCTU, 2 went to the Clinch River Chapter and 2 to the Tellico Plains Kiwanis Club. Also is what the alevins look like this week in the Clayton Bradley Academy tank.





TIE AND LIE - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26
@ CASUAL PINT, MARYVILLE - 6:30



This month we will be tying the Blue Quill. Thanks to Rob Fightmaster for this excellent description of one of the early spring flies.

Blue Quills represent one of the first good mayfly hatches of the year in the Smokies. By “good,” I mean they can come off in big enough numbers and with enough consistency for trout to really take notice. As with most aquatic insects, water temperature determines when they hatch and being an early season bug, there can be as much as a three week variation from year to year

In the Smokies, we tend to see them begin hatching in late March and continue through the third or fourth week of April. With a warmer than average February, they can get started a little earlier or they may get going a little later in a cold spring.

They tend to hatch sporadically through the day with the heaviest activity occurring between noon and 4:00pm. Water is often higher and faster this time of year, so pay close attention to soft current edges, eddies, and slow pockets for trout feeding on them. Water temperatures also tend to be chillier this time of year, which can retard emergence. An un-weighted nymph fished in the surface film or just below can be very effective, particularly on cooler, damp, or overcast days

The nymph is a reddish brown color and typically a size #16 or #18. The bugs tend to get smaller as the hatch progresses, so while we’ve mostly been seeing #16’s, expect #18’s to be more common in the coming weeks. There are specific Blue Quill nymph patterns but a standard Pheasant Tail Nymph works as well as anything.

The adults also have a reddish brown body with a light to medium dun wing and are also found in sizes #16 and #18. Again, very specific Blue Quill dry fly patterns are available but a Parachute Adams serves as a worthy imitation.



Hook: Standard dry-fly hook size 16

Thread: Brown 8/0

Tails: Dun hackle fibers

Post: Calf-body hair

Body: Stripped peacock quill

Hackle: Dun hackle

Thorax: Grey or light brown dubbing

NEW MEMBERS

Michael Smith Ken Holt

Welcome to the Little River Chapter of TU (LRCTU). 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 Mountain 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, as well as email notifications of any activities that may be happening during the month. Our meeting is the 4th Thursday of the month (with the exception of July, November, and December) held at the Bluetick Tavern in Maryville.

Social hour starts at 6:00 with month's program starting at 7:00 and the Chapter's business meeting immediately following. Feel free to visit our website at lrctu.org, contact me at lrctu.newsletter@gmail.com or any of the Board Members listed on the website for information.

MEMBERS OUT THERE

John Giorgini's nice rainbow from somewhere in the Great Smoky Mountains and our own Jimmy Jones demonstrating his beautiful flies at the Little River Outfitter tying demonstration this past weekend.



"Sharing the fun of fishing turns strangers into friends for a few hours" -
Eugenie Clark

Joyce Frey
Newsletter Editor
lrctu.newsletter@gmail.com



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