

# Little River Chapter

Newsletter

JAN 2003

Editor Joe Hatton

<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/Littlerivertu/index.html>



## Next Meeting

## Fishing Picks

The next meeting is on the **Fourth** Thursday January 24 at 7:00 pm. We are meeting 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 BiLo and the Co-op Gas station  
**Program** : Annual swap meet so bring all your extra Fly Fishing gear and buy, sell or trade with other members of the Chapter.

## Stream Work

There isn't any stream project scheduled this month. But this a good time to start thinking about what projects you would like to get involved in this year. There are lots of opportunities from acid deposition, and stream clean-up activities, fish population sample working side by side with park sampling crews which is a great experience in itself. The Park Fishery Department does stream surveys from spring into fall in some of the most rugged and most scenic areas of the park. So start thinking about how and what you would like to do to get involved. This is our Home Waters and it is up to us to look after it. A note to all Acid Deposition present and former members this March is the tenth anniversary of the first hike. Thanks for the great work .

By: Ian Rutter We're currently in the toughest fly fishing month of the year but there are still plenty of opportunities to get out and catch a few trout. Water levels have been pretty high on the mountain streams compared to recent years and temperatures have been low. This translates into sluggish fish hugging the bottom. Some of the best streams to check out will be the smaller ones. North River typically fishes well in the winter with its slow and shallow riffles. Abrams Creek is also a good choice. Its spring influences keep water temperatures in the mid to high forties so fish will be a bit more active. Cades Cove traffic is also light this time of year. The usual traffic hassles don't erupt until the weather gets warmer. Tailwater fishing has been virtually nonexistent with nearly every turbine working in the TVA system. Only those willing to drive to the Watauga have found schedules to accommodate wade fishermen. Generation has begun to let up a little on some of the rivers like the Holston below Cherokee dam. Hopefully this pattern will continue. The Hiwassee and South Holston are the best places to try for the fisherman hoping to fish a dry fly. Blue Wing Olives hatch all winter long on these two rivers. The South Holston will also see a few sulphurs on a sunny day. Midges and small black winter stoneflies hatch on the Hiwassee in the afternoon. (continued on page two)

**Fishing picks:** (continued from page one)

This river is fishable with no generators or one generator. Look for a pulsing schedule that has three hours of no generation followed by an hour of one turbine. The water typically on rises only six inches and remains very wade-able.

**Welcome to 2003**

Except for a certain unnamed football team, I hope the holidays were safe and good to each of you and your families. Besides getting rid of a few extra pounds acquired in the last few weeks, I am looking forward to an exciting year of growth for the Little River Chapter.

We start this year with four new members on our Board of Directors; so a special welcome to Joe Hall, Howard Kingsbury, Debra Lane and Mark Spangler. Once again we thank our retiring Directors Joe Hatton, Jack Gregory, Walter Babb, Ken Henderson, Dave Maxey, and Randall Barnes for their many contributions and we look forward to their continued participation and guidance as we move into the future.

2003 looks to be a busy year for the chapter with lots of opportunities for growing our membership, fishing, and conservation work in our watershed. It is a year of change as TU National does some reorganization and the TN TU Council goes into action with a new Charter, organization and goals. Howard Kingsbury and Mark Spangler are our current representatives on the TN Council so let these two know your thoughts and ideas regarding the Council. Also be sure to check out the Council's new web site at [www.tctu.ogr](http://www.tctu.ogr). These changes should all be very good and supportive of the work by local chapters like our Little River Chapter.

Our Board of Directors and Officers will hold a Planning Session on the 18<sup>th</sup> of this

month to firm up and put dates on a number of commitments and tentative actions. First up this year is the Knoxville Fishing show where we will have a booth on the 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. We will continue our stream work, acid deposition, and clean-up activities in the GSMNP. We have tentative plans for cosponsoring with Blount Beautiful and the Little River Watershed Association the annual Little River Clean up Day where we will be working in the Townsend area. There are several possibilities for working with youth including the Scouts and the Children's Ranch in Townsend. We also want to schedule several fishing events like "Drown-a-Buddy" to share the knowledge and skills of our more experienced members. There has also been preliminary discussion with Smoky Mountain and Clinch River chapters about a major fund raising banquet this fall. We hope that the Brookies will join in.

In my way of thinking our main focus this year should be on not only to bring in new members but helping new members participate in the various conservation activities and to be catching some fish. But what do each of you think? What about putting together several fishing trips to places in North Carolina or the Cumberland River? How about doing some projects on other watersheds with other TU chapters combined with some fishing on their waters? Call one of the Board members or email Tom Eustis ([tqtom@icx.net](mailto:tqtom@icx.net)) and tell us your thoughts and ideas.

The Fishing Show hours are 4 to 10 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 to 10 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 12 to 5 on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. We need your help to man our booth and a few folks who will demonstrate fly tying each day so please call Tom Eustis (681-2688) to sign up.

## Tie It and They Will Bite

By Jim Parks

In the natural progression of a fly fisherman, the goals of the angler change with time and experience. Initially, the goal may be to catch a fish. That goal may change to a trout, a wild trout, several trout, or eventually a large trout. If the angler is like many, new challenges will be faced and new goals set, keeping the sport interesting. Most fly fishermen are optimists and desire to reach some personal goal. At some point in the angling life cycle, many will begin tying their own flies. Some out of financial necessity, some for the creative enjoyment, and some for the expansion of the fly-fishing hobby. As the fly tying phase begins, the angler's goal is to catch a fish on a fly in which they personally tied. When I was a young teenager, I began tying flies during my second year of fly-fishing. When those yellowhammers started going for four dollars a dozen, something had to give. Well, as the saying goes, "necessity is the mother of invention". While my first one hundred or so flies looked like some new invention, they were supposed to be replicas of a specific pattern. A word to the wise beginner, if you are just starting or thinking about starting fly-tying, invest a little in some good lessons. It will pay off big in the long run both financially and mentally. You will waste a lot less materials and experience a lot less frustration.

Although I don't recall the celebration over catching a trout on one of my hand-tied flies, I do recall the initial quest for the "ultimate fly", aka the holy grail of fly-tying. Whether or not it exists is still debatable. If it does exist, it is one of the greatest kept secrets of all time. As I became more inventive, I created many "secret weapons" that will remain a secret because of their failure. A few have survived the test of time and I still use them as

the situation dictates. For that reason, I still experiment and so should you.

I always like to end with an example. Last October, I was fishing the Madison River in Yellowstone. While we had been catching fish all week, we were down to one last day. We all wanted to go out on a high note, so we busily prepared a few flies for the night before for our last hurrah. Thinking about the various patterns that had worked best on the finicky trout and by listening to the local fly shop rhetoric, I combined the best aspects of various patterns. When creating a new pattern, I always have some skepticism or doubt about the fly's future effectiveness. While the optimist within me says, "Tie it and they will bite," the realist kicks in, reminding me of previous failures. Like Kevin Costner in "A Field of Dreams", I have doubters, mostly myself. However, this time it was different. Instead of tying the pattern by combining patterns that had proven effective during the week and placing the invention in a box for use later in the day, I tied the new fly onto my tippet, "Tie it and they will bite". For some strange reason, I had no doubt. Well, my first cast proved fruitless, and my second cast, well, it measured over twenty-one inches. Tie it and they will bite.

## Fly of the month

### Early Brown Stone.

**Size** 10, 12 **Hook** 2X long nymph hook **Thread** Tan 6/0 **Tail** 2 turkey fiber tied in a V **Ribbing** Dark brown **Body** Glass or V-Rib. **Abdomen and Thorax** Medium coarse dubbing picked out. **Wingcase** Two white tip Turkey quill segments folded and pulled over the thorax.





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