

Little River Chapter

Newsletter

JAN 2004

Editor Joe Hatton

<http://www.LRCTU.org>

Next Meeting



Fishing Picks

The next meeting is on the **Fourth Thursday** January 22, 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 Bi-Lo and the Co-op Gas station.

Program Annual **SWAP MEET** Now is the time to bring out the gear you have to swap or sell. This annual event regularly yields many good deals for those that participate and the chapter benefits too! We request that 10% of the sales be donated back to our chapter.

Kim Ryals will be our guest speaker.

New Broad Members

We would like to welcome Steve Best, Ian and Charity Rutter and Marice Ferguson as new and returning Broad members. We would like to thank departing Broad members Lynn Hayes, Gary Ramsey, Mike Stiehl, David Ray, and Wayne Everbach for their hard work and dedication.

Stream Work

Even though we do not have any stream work this month it is time to start thinking about what you would like to get involved in this year. There are many projects and ways to get involved!

By: Ian Rutter I'm sitting down to write this while snow flurries float past my window and burning logs pop in the fireplace. It seems even colder because it was nearly 70 degrees only a few days ago. Consistency has never been the hallmark of weather in east Tennessee.

A lot of folks got fooled back in that warm spell we had after Christmas. There were more fishermen on Little River than I think I've ever seen in January. Apparently a lot of fishermen had an early case of spring fever. Fishing wasn't much, though. Melting snow on the tops of the mountains kept water temperatures at an unbelievable 38 degrees on most streams in my neck of the Smokies. These are usually times when I pack it up and head for the tailwaters. Unfortunately, generation schedules haven't allowed for much fishing. If things stay in the current pattern you might do better to tie flies rather than cast them.

If you have the means, floating the upper section of the Hiwassee tailwater should be productive. Excellent hatches of miniscule blue wing olives have kept fish rising. A drift boat or large raft would be the best way to get at these fish but anyone with an inflatable pontoon should also be able to get into fish.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

Fishing Picks [FROM PAGE 1] A pontoon is actually more versatile since you can launch almost anywhere and take it out almost anywhere. I've been putting the drift boat in at the powerhouse and fishing my way to the Towee Creek boat ramp. It's about a one mile walk back to the car so a shuttle isn't necessary. Fish are generally small, twelve inches or less, but I've caught almost all of them on dry fly so that should count for something.

Keep an eye out for good schedules on the South Holston and Watauga tailwaters. Both have had a few days of wadeable water plus there's always a good chance for a good hatch of olives or midges. I'm still checking schedules on the Clinch but it's been months since there's been a break in generation. Fishing should be excellent if we ever get back in the water over there.

Fishing in the mountains will just be slow for the next six weeks or so, there's not much that can be done about it. Certainly get out if the weather is nice, but have reasonable expectations. Beadheads fished under a strike indicator are the text book method, but I know a lot of folks that figure they'll go ahead and get skunked on a dry fly if they're going to get skunked anyway.

Book Signing

Ian Rutter will be signing his new book "Tennessee Trout Waters: Blue-Ribbon Fly Fishing Guide" at the January meeting.

Changing Priorities

By Jim Parks:

Having worked through a few hectic months, I badly needed some time away. I needed a respite from phone calls, the pressure of deadlines, continual problem-solving, and the monotony of the daily grind. It was time.

I was able to put together a short trip to Hazel Creek for a little fishing and camping. I remember my first trip to Hazel Creek. It was the first week of August 1979. Back then, my thoughts were on fishing and the upcoming high school football season and practice which started in just a few days. I remember the anticipation of fishing this wonderful stream with my dad. In those days, it was about catching fish and the possible encounter of the ever-elusive big one. There have been numerous trips back to Hazel Creek, often a few years between them. Each trip was always special. While I fished other streams weekly, there was always something unique about going to Hazel. The fishing was not particularly better there than in other streams in the Smokies, it was just Hazel Creek. I always felt, and still do, a certain peacefulness while on Hazel Creek, some serene connection to the waters. Perhaps it's the fact that cell phones do not reach up the valley and there are no deadlines or schedules to keep. I remember thinking and then telling the others in our party, that for the first time ever, fishing was not my top priority for being at Hazel Creek. I needed rest. I was overdue for a reprieve from the pressures I had felt. The afternoon of the first day, I dozed off in a hammock to the sweet song of ole Hazel. After an hour or so, I awoke and noticed the time on my wristwatch. I felt as though I needed to be doing something. Habits die hard. I realized that I was indeed doing something as I drifted back from whence I came. On the second day, I walked downstream away from all the other fishermen. I was fortunate to have the "waterfall" section above the second bridge to myself. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 3]

Little River Financial Report

We recently submitted our annual financial report to National for the year ending September 30, 2003. The following is a short version of that report and full details are available for the asking from Tom Eustis or Roy Hawk.

We took in \$17,894 and spend \$20157 and ended the year with \$4833 in the check-book.. We have made previous commitments to spend \$3305 so we effectively begin our New Year with \$1528 of funds. That is about one-half of what we began last year with so have a lot of fund raising to do. And we have started work on the new major fundraiser – The Townsend Mountain Trout Fest; but more about that later.

Of the \$17,894 income \$10,000 came from an Embrace-a-Stream Grant, \$1000 grant from TWRA and \$4500 came from the Mott Grant. The Embrace-a-Stream grant when directly to the Fisheries Dept of the GSMNP for the Brook Trout Restoration work. An additional \$750 was donated by the Little River Chapter. The Mott Grant was used for the very successful SE TU Public Relations Workshop attended by 15 individuals representing 6 different TU chapters from 3 states. The TWRA grant was used in support of the Little River Clean Up Day. The remaining \$3394 of income came from merchandise sales (\$1335), local donations (\$1365), membership rebates from national (\$220), advertising in the newsletter and special events.

Our expenses, other than Embrace-a-Stream, LR Clean-up Day, and the PR Workshop, included cost of merchandise for sale (\$956), newsletter, mailings and other printing (\$1062), general meeting and chapter expense (\$845). The Chapter was able to purchase about \$1800 of equipment including a projector and screen for use during meetings and for public presentations, a small pop-up rain tent for public events using our new display system, and a banner to be used at public events like the river clean-up. We also printed our very own brochures that have helped to bring in new members.

Besides the cash in the bank our assets include approximately \$520 of merchandise that can be sold. Our members, you guys, are our most important asset and we reported a total of 1232 volunteer hours. So we ended the year in fair shape, but not with enough to support the conservation work like we want to. It is our hope that the Townsend Mountain Trout Fest will raise \$10,000 in 2004 and become our ANNUAL major fundraiser. It will take everyone's involvement and commitment so let's make it happen in a grand style.

Your Board of Directors hopes you appreciate getting this information and please let us

We got a bigger NET!
www.lrctu.org

The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited has a better/bigger internet address. This new address will make it easier for our members to stay in touch with chapter news, activities and events as well as making it easier remember our website address and to share it with others! Start sharing it with others today!

Changing Priorities [FROM PAGE 2] This is a beautiful stretch of water consisting of shallow runs between a series of waterfalls and deep pools. I made my way from the trail to a rock in the middle of a shallow run. I took off my boots and sat with my feet in the cool mountain water enjoying the bright, warm sunshine on my face, and the fresh, serene air in my nostrils. No watch, no phone calls, no deadlines, just clear blue skies, the sound of rippling water, the low rumble of the falls and, oh yeah, that rainbow rising 30 feet away. It didn't matter that the fish was feeding. I had hooked into my quarry, and I wasn't ready to let it go. I leaned back and watched white bulbous clouds glide along. I never imagined shapes or features. That would've required thought, and I didn't want to ruin the moment. I watched as the sun glittered off the water, alternating movements in harmony with the swirling surface and passing clouds. I admired a monarch butterfly as it wafted by. As the day passed, I closed my eyes and listened to the breeze filtering through the trees, mentally riding each wave as it meandered through the valley. I opened my eyes. That rainbow was still rising. I gave thanks for the peaceful places in life that provide a much needed refuge. I gave thanks for Hazel Creek. I gave thanks for that rainbow as I let it go.

We need your Help!

The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting the 1st annual Trout Festival in Townsend, June 5th & 6th, 2004 at the Townsend Visitors Center. A Festival Banquet & Live Auction will be held on Saturday Night June 5th at the Maple Leaf Lodge in Townsend. This is a big task that our Chapter is taking on this year. We hope to make this an annual

event that members and nonmembers will be looking forward to all year. Now that we have the time and place, we need to setup committees to take on certain tasks to pull this off. Its going to take a lot of work and commitment from all our chapter members. The benefits and rewards our chapter could receive include not only much needed funds to continue our work in and around the Park, but it would also be a great way to get our message to the fishing and nonfishing public. It may bring in more new members, and more people helping with Stream projects. Allowing us to be able to donate more money to the Park to help improve the quality of the trout environment, which will improve our fishing experience. There is a place in which everybody can help. If you have worked on a Festival or TU Banquet committee before please let us know. If we all pitch in we will have a successful Trout Festival and Banquet. So join in and help.

Fly of the Month

Brassie

Hook: 2x long 2x stout, size 16-22

Thread: Black 6/0 or 8/0 Nylon

Body: copper

Head: Peacock herl





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