

LITTLE RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Editor
Mark Sebby



January 2008
www.lrctu.org

Next Meeting

- When:** January 24, 2007 at 7:00pm
(4th Thursday of the month)
- Where:** Monte Vista Baptist Church
1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd in Maryville.
The church has an entrance on the
opposite side of Hwy 129 between
the red light and the Co-op Gas
station.
- Program:** Presentation to include showing of
Back the Brookie educational DVD
and possible guest speaker.
- Plus:** This month, we have the annual
swap meet where everybody can sell
their extra fishing gear.

Stream Work

January 19-20, 2008: Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition
Sample

Also,

A planning meeting for the Great Smoky Mountains
National Park Acid Deposition Sampling for 2008
has been scheduled as follows:

- When:** Saturday, February 16, 2008 at 9:00 AM
until no later than noon
- Where:** GSNP Park Headquarters (behind
Sugarlands)
- Who should attend:** Anyone interested in helping in
2008 and anyone interested in seeing a
summary of results
- Food:** As we did last year, breakfast (biscuits, rolls,
fruit, coffee, & juice) will be provided

Looking forward... to 2008!

Fellow Chapter members, it sure is good to leave
behind a hot and dry 2007. Historic lows on our
namesake waterway left it rather warm and
unappealing for fishing for much of the time. I
remember comments from multiple sources about
"never seen it this low" and the water restrictions
for Maryville and Alcoa lent credence to such
claims. With a rainfall deficit of something like
14.4" inches for the year (at the airport), I look
forward to a wet winter and spring to make up for
some of that precipitation shortfall. At least that's
what I hope.

Despite the drought, some good things happened
last year. We (the Chapter) set another record for
Troutfest fundraising, and in turn, provided our
largest check to the Park's Fisheries Department to
date for brook trout restoration. The check of
nearly \$14,000 brought the Chapter's four year
donation total to \$46,000. I regard that as a quite
impressive sum. Additionally, we donated \$2,000 to
the Fisheries scholarship fund to support an intern.
So in total, we gave the Park service nearly \$16,000
in 2007 from Troutfest.

We did more than Troutfest though. Bi-monthly
acid deposition stream samplings, the annual Little
River cleanup, Pi Beta Phi elementary school field
trip support (including an introduction to fly fishing)
at Metcalf Bottoms, stream population samplings,
Bass Pro Shops fund raisers, and monthly meetings
occupied us during the year. Thanks to all for the
hard work and support. Gary Verholek did a nice
job at the December meeting of recapping the
year's events and accomplishments in a
presentation. I appreciated getting the chance to

Looking forward... to 2008! (continued)

look back over the year's accomplishments via that presentation.

I think 2008 will be a great year. The Lynn Camp Prong brook trout restoration project begins in earnest in September, with the removal of non-native trout. The removal includes a two week window to catch and remove all the rainbow trout you can fool in that time period, so start planning now for a trip to Lynn Camp Prong (above the cascades) in September.

Throughout the spring and summer, though, many activities permeate the calendar. The Chapter's signature event of Troutfest occurs on 17-18 May. More immediate happenings for the Chapter include acid deposition training in February (the 16th), with Bass Pro Shops fund raisers, the Little River cleanup, and Pi Beta Phi field trip support all occurring in March. Of course, please plan to attend the Chapter meetings each month (always the fourth Thursday) to find out more details, or go to the Chapter's website at www.lrctu.org.

By the way, this article contributes to Mark Seby's initial effort as newsletter editor, and I want to encourage others to support Mark as he takes on his new position. The newsletter plays an incredibly important role of tying the Chapter together, so serving as the newsletter editor fills a crucial position. I appreciate Mark's willingness to serve. Thanks, too, of course, to outgoing newsletter editor Joe Hatton for nine years of exemplary service. That's a long time, and Joe deserves a break. Joe, thanks for the dedicated service.

I also want to thank the outgoing board members. Specifically, Ken Jones, Ross Shaver, and Steve Best all completed their board terms in 2007. Thanks guys for all your hard work in support of the Chapter.

New board members Chad McFall, Dudley Shumate, and Mike McKenzie were elected as part of the December election meeting to fill the board vacancies. Thanks goes to each of these individuals for their willingness to serve, and I look forward to working with each of them.

Finally, the Little River Chapter's mission is to

conserve, protect, and restore the cold water resources and watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. I regard that as a truly noble cause. I ask each of you to please help the Chapter accomplish its mission by getting involved in 2008!

Thanks,
Jeff

Helping the Great Smokies

Fisheries managers at GSMNP have accepted a \$5000 assortment of waders and wading shoes from the Orvis Corp. Park Fisheries biologist Steve Moore joined *Friends of the Smokies* President Jim Hart to pick up a van load of the fishing gear from Kris Maurer, fishing Manager of the Sevierville Orvis store. According to Moore, the equipment will be used to outfit the large crews of Park staff and volunteers on labor intensive projects like large stream fish population surveys and the project to restore native brook trout to Lynn Camp Prong next fall.

Fishing Report

It is January, a month when I don't fish much if at all because the water in the Smokies is usually too cold. But right now we are experiencing a warm spell and the fishing here could improve briefly. The streams in the Smokies are in good shape. We have had two months of average rainfall and the Little River looks normal for a change. I hated to look at it this Summer and Fall until the rain came.

Today the water temperature in the Little River is 37 degrees. Last week the water was frozen near the banks of the slower pools. Tomorrow it is supposed to be 65 degrees here in Townsend. You never know. But for right now, at least in the Smokies, nymphs fished deep and maybe some Blue Wing Olives on top might work. Don't forget Abrams Creek. It is warmer near the "Falls Trailhead" thanks to the springs.

Most anglers are turning to the tail waters as cabin fever sets in. The Holston, South Holston, Clinch and Caney Fork have been doing well for those who are willing to brave the cold weather. I haven't heard much lately about Watauga or the Hiwassee.

Fishing Report (continued)

Some fishermen are concentrating on the delayed harvest streams in North Carolina and Tennessee. Joe McGroom just returned from the White River in Arkansas. He and his Dad fished one day when the temperature was 11 degrees. They caught a lot of fish and some nice ones. That is too cold for me. I'll stay home and tie flies.

I'm looking forward to Spring. It is not far off. I've talked to many fly fishermen this fall who didn't do much fishing this year in our region because of the drought and the heat. The streams were warm and low, the lakes were low and TVA couldn't generate much because they didn't have the water. I bet this Spring will bring fishermen out of the doldrums. What we need is a good wet Spring and a cold Winter.

In some years the Spring hatches in the Smokies start in late February and some years in March. The water needs to reach the fifty degree mark for a few days then we will see the Quill Gordons, the hatch we all like to talk about and experience. The Quill Gordon is a symbol that tells us anglers it is time to start fly fishing. When they start hatching the excitement builds and anglers get active. The trout get active too. We'll have to wait, but not for long.

Have a great month.

Byron Begley

TU Tennessee License Plate



It is time to show your support and send in your application for the Tennessee Trout Unlimited license plate. Our Chapter is

second behind the Cumberland chapter in plates ordered. Make sure you check the #644 box so our chapter will receive credit. This a good cause, the money will be used for trout projects throughout the state. It will also enable some of our smaller chapters to do projects they did not have funds to do before. This will be a great resource to improve trout habitat thought out our great state. Show your support and send in yours today.

North Shore Road Update

Great Smoky Mountains National Park
News Release: Immediate Release
Date: December 28, 2007

National Park Service Selects Monetary Settlement to Resolve North Shore Road Issue

On December 28, 2007 Paul Anderson, the Acting Southeast Regional Director of the National Park Service, signed a Record of Decision (ROD) that officially calls for a monetary settlement to Swain County, North Carolina as the conclusion to the Environmental Impact Statement process at Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The decision clears the way for a new agreement to be crafted between the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) and the other three parties to a 1943 Agreement which called for the construction of a 34-mile long road on the North Shore of Fontana Lake as a replacement for an earlier road that was flooded by the Lake during WWII.

Park Superintendent Dale Ditmanson said, "We anticipate scheduling a meeting early in the new year... to develop a new document that will replace the 1943 Agreement." Ditmanson continued, "We sincerely appreciate the involvement of the public as well as local and national government officials throughout the EIS process that has allowed us to reach a solution that will both compensate Swain County and protect the resources of the Park."

Editor's Note

In an effort to try to help out and contribute to the chapter, I have taken over the responsibilities as Newsletter Editor. With Joe's help and guidance here in the beginning, I will do my best to present the chapter's and members' activities in an informative and hopefully enjoyable format. Please send me any article, article idea, or good fishing experience you would like to share with everyone. More contributors will keep it interesting AND will help me greatly as Editor. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and learning through this experience. Also, please excuse the absence of Fly of the Month. I promise it will return in February.

- Mark Sebby

The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit volunteer organization that is committed to Protecting & Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

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fishing seminars, schools and tying classes