

Next Meeting:

Where: Monte Vista Baptist Church
1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd
Maryville, TN 37803-5505
(enter the bldg. from the parking lot)

When: 7:00 p.m., Thurs., January 28

Program: Nick Waller— Backpack Fishing

In the nearby GSMNP it's often necessary to get off the beaten path in order to experience real wild trout fishing. In many cases, hitting those spots can't be done in a day trip, or those great remote spots deserve more than just a once and done fishing tactic.

For example, you can fish Hazel Creek in a day, but in order to "experience" Hazel Creek, you'll need to spend at least a night at a camp sight. This involves planning and carrying, not only your favorite stick, flies and other necessary fishing gear, but also the provisions you'll need for shelter and sustenance. Nick Waller who works at River Sports Outfitters in Knoxville, TN, and conducts courses on backpacking in the back woods, will provide a short course for trout fishers who wish to extend their trips beyond just the day. Waller will provide tips on planning and the gear needed to stay dry, warm and well fed on an extended backwoods fishing expedition.

Also at this meeting, we'll welcome new officers and recognize those LRCTU members who have dedicated hours of time, some blood, some sweat and maybe even a few tears over the past years to our chapter's mission and projects.

NOTE: There will be a board meeting starting at 6:15 p.m.—prior to the regular meeting.

Rivercourse Nominees Sought

We need to have names submitted for possible Rivercourse attendees. LRCTU provides scholarship funds to send a deserving youth aged 13-15 years old to the closest Rivercourse camp near Canton, NC.

That camp, held this year June 20-25, is sponsored by the NC Council of Trout Unlimited, and is one of several camps around the country that National TU coordinates. Through local chapters, National TU is making the effort to pass along the love of trout fishing to the next generation and the camps are seen as a great experience and good way of accomplishing this.

"A strong, well-organized network of national camps provides us an excellent opportunity to recruit and train new coldwater conservation champions. It also ensures that, as an organization, TU is building a young base of support across the country," according to Franklin Tate, TU Director of Youth Education Programs.

Through the use of both traditional and natural classrooms, the campers receive instruction by volunteer experts in specialties such as geology, entomology, herpetology, stream restoration techniques, wetlands ecology, and environmental policy. In addition, fly-fishing and fly tying instruction will reinforce traditional values of patience, technique, attention to detail and a general love of the outdoors.

LRCTU attendee Lee Whitehead provided us with details of his camp experience at a 2009 chapter meeting.



Preparations are well underway for this year's Troutfest. Festival organizers and volunteers have made this event one of the up and coming premier trout fishing expositions. This year's event in Townsend Tennessee promises to be even better. The dates for your calendar are Friday through Sunday, May 14-16.

Four hundred tickets will be sold for the Banquet and Auction to be held Friday night starting at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$50 and should be purchased in advance. The menu promises smoked chicken and all the traditional favorite sides.

Nationally known and perennial favorites Lefty Kreh, Bob Clouser and Joe Humphreys are all returning to participate in casting lessons, presentations, book signings and other activities. Jim Casada, author of the recently released *Fly Fishing in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park* will present and also sign his book.

Local guide, Charity Rutter will do a presentation on women and fly fishing and Stanley Bogden is scheduled to return with one of his hand-made reels for the auction.

Volunteers are the backbone of this event's success and this year will be no different. Please contact Troutfest volunteer coordinator Ron Becker (865-389-5083) to get your name on his list.

All volunteers who donate at least 4 hours to the event will receive a designated "STAFF" 2010 Troutfest T-shirt!

Park Service Volunteer Meeting on Tap

A breakfast meeting has been scheduled for volunteers and University of Tennessee researchers with the Park Service for Saturday February 20 at 9:00 AM at Park Headquarters. This is the kick off meeting for the Acid Deposition Sampling Program begun with TU support in 1993.

The meeting should be finished before noon and at the meeting we will: discuss any changes to the processes; address any problems encountered this past year and receive suggestions for improvements; report on the data results; and develop a volunteer list and schedule for the next year of samples.

This Program has been gathering valuable data about the effects of acid rain, fog, and snow on the stream in the Park. It is important that we continue to gather data even if improvements in air emissions are made so that the effects of the improvement can be measured. As usual, the Park Services does not have the resources to continue the sampling at the current level without the help of TU and the volunteers who participate. Since the samples are gathered every other month, we need a large number of volunteers who are willing to join a sample team for at least one of the six samples being scheduled.

If you plan to attend the meeting or even if you cannot attend but want to volunteer, please send me a message or call me. This will help me set up the volunteer list and provide enough food for all the attendees.

Charlie Chmielewski
cell 865-661-7325

Haul'n Trout

By Dave Ezell

An opportunity to help with the relocation of native brook trout from higher altitude streams in North Carolina to a new home in Lynn Camp prong of Little River here in Tennessee provided insight into the professionalism exhibited by the folks who manage wildlife for GSMNP.

Not knowing what to expect, I packed my waders, a sleeping bag and a few snacks and met up with fisheries biologist Matt Kulp and his crew at the Park offices behind Sugarlands Visitors Center early morning Sept. 29. This was an overnigher, so we would head into the higher areas of the Park on the North Carolina side near Cataloochie to shock and capture up to as many as 600 native brookies, keep them safe overnight in a local stream and then, the next day, safely transport them over the mountains, hike them up Lynn Camp Prong trail and release them into the waters.

It was a great experience working with these folks who all exhibited attention to detail and a high degree of interest in this endeavor. After arriving at our camp in NC, we unloaded some of our gear and made plans for the capture. We split into two teams each of which tackled a different stream. Thanks to recent rain, water levels were a little higher than normal, but the challenge was more getting through the thick underbrush surrounding the small brook trout stream assigned to our crew. Four of us

climbed up this stream, pulling our way through thick laurel and crawling over fallen logs. Thanks to the talent of our shock man and his assistant, we pulled a fair number of good looking specimens from this stream and headed back to camp.



These traveling trout were stored overnight in the stream close by with hopes they would not be taken for an easy meal by resident bear or otter.

The trout made it safely through the night and were transferred to a special holding tank



for the journey to Tennessee and their new home.

With the help of an ATV we transported these transient fish in specially cooled and

oxygenated containers to four locations and released them. In about a year or so, maybe we'll be able to see them or their offspring again as they rise for a dry fly. We can only hope!



The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a Non-Profit Volunteer Organization that is Committed to Protecting and Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and Around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park



**Thanks to all of you who
worked on Troutfest.
Great Job!**

And thanks for attending, supporting and donating to Troutfest. Together we have made a difference that we can all be proud of forever.

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Stop by or call about our monthly
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NEW FOR 2010
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rufus.king@mac.com
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sahead@bellsouth.net
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