

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

January 2014 Newsletter



President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

Well, the holidays are behind us. It's been a busy couple of months for Jan and me. Lots of time with family, a trip out west to New Mexico and Arizona before settling down in Townsend. Even though my fishing slows down a bit at this time of year, I've been busy.

I scrambled to finish a nice 7'-9", 3 weight rod to give to Jan as a Christmas present. Late delivery of the epoxy needed to finish the wraps had me carefully (and secretly) applying thin coats of epoxy on Christmas Eve and wrapping the rod early Christmas morning. It worked out in the end, and Jan was both surprised and thrilled with her new rod.

It definitely looks like 2014 is going to be a busy year for our Chapter. As we noted in last month's newsletter, the BOD has agreed to hold our Troutfest Banquet on Friday, April 25. This will be our major fundraiser for the year and we will need your help in the planning and execution of the event and well as attending the banquet.

We have a special opportunity to send one of our youths to the 2014 Trout Camp next June. The cost to attend is \$495 per student. Believing that the education of our youth is critically important in the development of future conservation leaders, the LRCTU BOD has agreed to provide \$400 in tuition assistance to reducing the cost for one of our LRCTU youths to only \$95. This assistance is limited to on youth and the application must be received by March 1.

The planning for Steve Moore's retirement celebration continues. The dinner event is scheduled for February 1 at the River Plantation in Sevierville. Tickets are \$18/person. Arrive between 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner served at 6:30. The cutoff for reservations is January 17, so don't procrastinate if you plan on attending. There are two ways to make reservations:

1. *Credit card via Little River Outfitters website:*

<http://littleriveroutfitters.com/store/home.php?cat=1364>

2. Send a check to: Great Smoky Mountain Employee Alumni Association, c/o Steve Moore Retirement, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738.

Our membership meeting is Thursday, January 23. Matt Kulp of the GSMNP Fisheries Dept. will be our presenter discussing Park current and future conservation efforts. I hope to see you there.

Time flies when you're having fun. It's hard to believe I'm already starting my second year as the Chapter President. I'm truly excited about the year ahead of us. Happy New Year, stay warm and be safe!

Mike

Matt Kulp to Present at January Meeting

This year we hope to continue providing our membership with interesting presentations. At our first meeting on January 23, 2014, Matt Kulp will be our speaker. If you like fishing in the GSMNP this is a must attend meeting. Below is information on Matt's background and his presentation.

Matt Kulp grew up in Telford, Pennsylvania and graduated from Souderton Area High School in 1988. He holds a BS in biology from Pennsylvania State University ('92) and a MS in biology (fisheries) from Tennessee Technological University ('94). During his junior/senior years at Penn State, Matt worked at the USFWS Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research unit as a fisheries technician. Matt began his career with Great Smoky Mountains National Park in May 1994 as a fishery technician and in May 1995 became a fishery biologist with the Park, where he continues to serve. His fisheries management objectives focus on brook trout inventory and monitoring, brook trout genetics, native fish restoration, threatened and endangered fish reintroduction and monitoring, and long-term water quality and fisheries monitoring. He has planned and assisted other agencies on numerous native fish restoration projects around the country. Matt was selected as Employee of the Year at GRSM in 2010. He is Certified Fisheries Scientist with the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and current President of the Southern Division of the AFS Trout Committee. He is an avid wild turkey and deer hunter and also enjoys fresh/saltwater fishing and woodworking. He enjoys time with his wife Mimi and children Michael and Pauline, all of whom reside in Wears Valley, Tennessee.



The focus of his presentation will be an update on the Lynn Camp Prong brook trout restoration project, results of the latest brook trout genetics projects, announcement of a new online angler creel survey website and an overview of the new vital signs monitoring program. There will be a variety of volunteer opportunities in the park to look forward to in 2014, including collection and transport of brook trout into the lower portions of Lynn Camp Prong, some new acid deposition sampling routes, large stream fish community IBI surveys and brook trout monitoring surveys on Lynn Camp prong and other GRSM streams. Please come on out and hear about some of the many projects going on in the park and how you can get involved with them if you so choose.

If you are a regular or if you have not attended a meeting recently please mark your calendar for this important presentation.

Please note that we will meet at the Monte Vista Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.
The meeting will start at 7:00pm.

Address: Monte Vista Baptist Church
1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd
Maryville, TN 37803-5505

Whole Lot Of Tying (Lying?) Going On



Well, maybe not lying, more like, uh... elaboration. Thanks to Jack Gregory and Walter Babb for providing several of their successfully proven fly patterns and tying them for members at our November/December meeting. Jack revealed a proven (on large browns) stonefly pattern while Walter tied a number of his favorites for some avid students.



Troutfest News

In case you haven't heard yet, LRCTU is excited to announce that there will be a Troutfest event in 2014. The format will be a little different than in previous years, as we will be holding a fundraising banquet and auction at the Airport Hilton in Alcoa on the evening of Friday, April 25th. There won't be a festival accompanying the banquet this year, which means you will have all weekend to explore the abundant fishing opportunities nearby.



Tickets will be going on sale later this month, so be sure to check out the Chapter website (www.lrctu.org) for the announcement as well as information about how to purchase your tickets.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Friday, April 25th and help us spread the word!

GSMNP Volunteer Opportunites

Saturday February 22, 9:00 AM at the Park Service Twin Creeks Science Center in Gatlinburg -

Annual breakfast meeting on the Acid Deposition Sampling Program.

With 20 years of data and the retirement of Steve Moore, the creator of the program, we will be reviewing the history and reflecting on the results of the data and changes in air emissions.

Anyone interested in volunteering for 2014 or learning about the program or the results of the past 20 years of sampling is invited to attend.

Breakfast is free.

A short history of the program will be presented.

Data trends over the 20 years of sampling will be reviewed.

A short training overview of the process will be presented.

A draft sampling schedule of volunteers will be prepared.

The meeting is expected to finish by noon or earlier.

A map showing access to the location of the facility from Knoxville can be found on the link below.

https://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=knoxville.+tn&daddr=35.687104.-83.501158

Please contact Charlie Chmielewski at 865-661-7325 or by e-mail at charlieflyfish@gmail.com if:

You will attend the meeting (head count needed for food)

You want more information about the meeting or the program

Louisiana Reds and Tuna Town

In Louisiana, just 75 miles below the Big Easy, lies the small town of Venice. It's location, on about the last spit of dry land at the southern tip of the Mississippi River delta, doesn't lend itself but to two things, servicing the giant Gulf of Mexico oil rigs and fishing. Just to the north is Port Sulphur, another village with the same legend.

These small towns that jut out into the gulf exist by way of the dikes that prevent the mighty Mississippi from swallowing them as it engulfs and then gives back soils that have origins further north.



The variety of sport fishing from the two marinas servicing the clientele who have "discovered" this outpost, is amazing. From deep sea, to backwaters, Venice has got it going on just about 12 months out of the year. There's a catch, though. Don't come to Venice unless you fish. You won't find a Starbucks or a McDonalds or any other fast food joint within 40 miles. The only "shopping" available is at the Marina "gear" store, and the hours are limited. But if you still insist on bringing along a non-fishing partner, there is a hardware store in Port Sulphur... and New Orleans is only one-and-a-half hours away.

Inland waters produce some of the largest red fish you can haul into a boat, in addition to Speckled Trout, Flounder and Sheepshead. LRCTU member Bill Bollinger recently experienced some fun red fishing out of Port Sulphur. He describes it this way:

“Sight fishing to big redfish sounded like a hoot when Capt. Nick Sassic told me about his camp in Louisiana. So the first week of December four of us made the easier-than-expected ten hour drive from Maryville to Port Sulfur to fish three days with Nick and his partner, Capt. Scott MacCalla.”



“They offer comfortable accommodations in a house on the water that serves as their base of operation about 45 miles south of New Orleans. They either put their flats boats in the water literally out the back door for fishing locally, or trailer them thirty minutes farther south to Venice where the big fish are found. We opted for Venice.”

“Both guides are great teachers and after some first day instruction on overcoming our tendency to “trout set”, we were consistently into reds in the 15-30 pound class. See the fish, put the fly in front of him, strip, strip, strip.....then see a big red turn and charge the fly...well, its an adrenaline rush for an old hillbilly!! We boated plenty enough fish that early to bed was no problem. If you're interested contact Nick ([386-479-3429](tel:386-479-3429)) or Scott ([321-795-9259](tel:321-795-9259)) for the details.”



OFFSHORE OUT OF VENICE

For offshore, the trench cut by the Mississippi river into bed of the Gulf provides easy access to waters that fall to depths of 1000 feet within 15 miles of a Venice marina. The fish are plentiful. Targeted deep water species include Yellow Fin Tuna, Wahoo, Blue Marlin, Mahi-Mahi, Blackfin Tuna, Snapper, Grouper, Cobia, Amberjack, Sharks, and King Mackerel.

My offshore experience was with five friends from NY, NJ, and MA, three of whom flew down leaving the other two road warriors to drive and pick me up in Maryville on their way. We scheduled two back-to-back days of fishing July 9 & 10 with the Mexican Gulf Fishing Company <http://www.mgfishing.com/>. Although it had been raining for two weeks straight, the clouds parted and winds died for two perfect days on the water.

Our accommodations were at the Cypress Cove Marina and Lodge, one of the two marinas in Venice. The “lodge” is more of a hotel, but rooms were clean, new and reasonably priced.

Two of us were brave enough to bring out our 13 wts. to throw at trailing dolphin when no one else was looking. I hooked and lost a small dolphin on a Puglisi fly that Byron Begley showed me how to tie. We fished the first day around the rigs landing Wahoo, and Tuna, then found a weed line at the end of the day that we returned to on the second day. The other guy landed his small dolphin on the fly and I got to throw at a Triple Tail that lurked around a floating stump. Also, jacks are prevalent around the weed lines and usually in the same spots as dolphin and I caught several of these stripping the Puglisi. In the tight quarters, my biggest accomplishment was not fouling lines, hooking any of the other seven people in the boat or decorating a propeller shaft in Cortland yellow.



The Little River Chapter Trout Unlimited Newsletter is produced for current members. Please ensure that you have a viable email address on file with your membership information at Trout Unlimited. You can add an email address or update your current email at www.tu.org or call 1-800-834-2419.

Note: Anyone with news, such as an event or account of a fishing trip, etc., please send it along to newsletter editor, Dave Ezell ezop@charter.net

Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website www.lrctu.org