

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

JANUARY 2015 Newsletter



President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

I've never liked winter and cold weather. And even though we have the opportunity to fish for trout in the winter, I have to admit I find myself inside the house tying flies versus fishing more often than not. At least I'm rebuilding my fly inventory. Jan and I will be in Florida again this winter, so I've been busy preparing for saltwater fishing, including tying flies and practicing long distance casting.

Future Chapter Business

With 2014 behind us, it's time to look forward to 2015. And I'm excited about our opportunities to continue building on our successes.

- We will again hold our Troutfest Banquet and Auction in April. Mark your calendars for Friday night, April 24. We are planning yet another great Troutfest Banquet & Auction. Last year's Troutfest was phenomenal and we plan to build on that success.
- Our Trout-in the Classroom programs will expand to four schools! The two trout releases in December were fantastic. We were able to already touch the lives of more than 70 children, with more to come!!
- We will support Trout Camp in June. Do you know any kids ages 12-15 who enjoy the outdoors? Consider enrolling a child in the 2015 Trout Camp (full name - Trout Unlimited Great Smoky Mountains 2015 Trout Adventure Camp). The Camp is schedule for June 15-20. You can find more information and a registration form at www.tntroutadventure.org.
- We will continue to support critically important Park Service efforts with our volunteer efforts.
- We will continue to work on fishing trips

- We will start a more concerted effort on membership education.

All of these efforts are possible only because of the volunteer efforts by you and our chapter members.

Monthly Meeting

At our January Membership Meeting (Thursday, January 22), Matt Kulp (Supervisory Fishery Biologist-Great Smoky Mountain National Park) will present another program laying out the plans for the Fisheries Department in 2015. Matt is an excellent speaker capable of explaining the direction and challenges facing our Park and how we can continue to play a vital role in their efforts. This is a presentation you don't want to miss.



Stay warm and safe. I hope to see you at the January meeting.

Thanks,
Mike

Conservation Groups Partner To Educate Next Generation

The Great Smoky Mountain Institute at Tremont and Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited are partners in bringing conservation and life lessons to area youth. We are blessed to have many conservation groups working to protect our environment and natural resources in East Tennessee, however, these groups often work independently of each other and don't benefit from one another's knowledge and strengths. This is not the case with GSMIT and LRCTU.

In recent years, GSMIT has offered a program called "Great Smoky Mountains Aquatic Biology and Fishing Adventure". This program is designed for children aged 12 to 15 years old and has been supported by volunteers from Trout Unlimited. The children learn about stream ecology, brook trout restoration, and stream physics, chemistry and aquatic entomology. They also learn about fly tying and fly fishing.

This past year the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited began a program in local area schools called "Trout In the Classroom." LRCTU worked with GSMIT to identify local area teachers and schools that have a strong emphasis on conservation and our environment. LRCTU buys and sets up tanks and needed equipment to support

rainbow trout eggs. At school the children are able to watch the eggs become alevin and later fry. The children then take a field trip to Little River in Townsend, TN, where they release these.

Over the past 40 years our country and world has come a long way in understanding the importance of good conservation and natural resource stewardship. Passing on these lessons to the next generation is crucial. Organizations like Trout Unlimited and the Great Smoky Mountain Institute at Tremont, working together to provide creative programming for children, make this mission a reality.

Chuck James
LRCTU



ABOVE: Students shock the water of the Little River under the guidance of the Biologist from the GSMNP and collect fish to determine number of species. On this day they identified 15 different species.

RIGHT: A TU member teaches a young student the art of fly casting.



ORVIS FREE FLY TYING CLASSES

So you're hooked on throwing bugs at fishy spots and now you want to get serious and up your game. Since it's too cold to stand in a river without losing an appendage to frostbite, why not learn to do some tying. Orvis Sevierville offers free tying classes on Jan. 17, 24th, 31st and Feb 7th, 17th and 28th. Class space is limited so stop by the store, go to their website <http://www.orvis.com/s/sevierville-tennessee-orvis-retail-store/1510> or call 865-774-4162 to make your reservation.

January Meeting To Feature Kulp Assessment of Lynn Camp Prong Restoration

Please join us Thursday, January 22, 2015 at Calhoun's Restaurant, 751 Watkins Rd, Maryville. We meet at 6pm for dinner and fellowship, followed by a short business meeting at 7pm then our speaker. This month we have the pleasure of having Matt Kulp, Supervisory Fishery Biologist from the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

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. Matt will also discuss how volunteer hours help GRSM compete for annual project funding. There will be a variety of volunteer opportunities in the park to look forward to in 2015, including monitoring 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.

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 (GRSM) in May 1994 as a fishery technician and in May 1995 became a Fishery Biologist with GRSM. In 2014, Matt became the Supervisory Fishery Biologist at GRSM where he continues to serve.

His fisheries management objectives focus on brook trout monitoring, brook trout conservation genetics, native fish restoration, threatened and endangered fish monitoring, long-term water quality monitoring and determining critical loads to protect park resources. 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 served multiple tenures as President of the Southern Division of the AFS Trout Committee. He is an avid wild turkey and deer hunter, 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.

Help Wanted!

Park Water Sampling Outgrows Volunteer Force

Your help is needed in 2015. Our Acid Deposition Sampling Program that began in 1993 will add another sample route on the Tennessee side of the Park (Middle Prong Little Pigeon River).

Why is the Program Important?

- Because of our data and other air policy, over the past three decades, TVA and other eastern U.S. power producers, have decreased sulfate deposition by 57% and nitrate deposition has decreased by 23%.
- However, there is a puzzle to be solved. Stream acid levels at most elevations have not improved as expected and brook trout continue to lose habitat, so more study is needed.
- Air regulators and policy makers would like to see additional stream response data across the park and how park plants and animals respond to the improving air emissions.



Why is Another Sample Route Being Added?

- To solve the puzzle, NPS plant, soil, and stream experts are working together and expanding their joint efforts to collocate sites around the park as well sample all elevations. This means we are setting up an additional watershed where soil, plant and stream samples are taken.

How Do I Sign Up to Learn More and To Help?

A meeting has been scheduled for **Saturday, February 28**, 2015 at 9:00 AM at Park Headquarters.

- To sign up contact Charlie Chmielewski at charlieflyfish@gmail.com mobile phone 865-661-7325.
- A free breakfast will be provided, so please notify Charlie ahead of the meeting so enough food will be available.
- At the meeting, we will provide up to date data results, show the routes, conduct training, organize the sample teams, and develop the schedule for the next year of sampling.

Acid Deposition Water Sampling Reminder for January 17, 2015

Volunteer Team Members are reminded that water sampling is scheduled for Saturday, January 17. The sampling will take place rain, snow or shine unless the Park roads are closed for safety reasons. The latest revised schedule is given below.

2014 GSMNP Acid Deposition Sampling Schedule – Revised 10-25-14

Sample Route	Jul 19 (or 20)	Sept 20 (or 21)	Nov 15 (or16)	Jan 17 (or 18) 2015
Cosby Creek Team Leader Dave Carson/ Rich Ashmore	Dave Carson (L) Josh Carson David Briggs George Upton	Dave Carson (L) David Briggs George Upton Larry Norton	Rich Ashmore(L) David Briggs George Upton Larry Norton Dick Geiger	Rich Ashmore(L) David Briggs George Upton Dick Geiger
Lower Abrams Cr. and Little River Team Leader Dan Holloway	Dan Holloway (L) Kimber Bradbury Buzz Buffington Dick Geiger Charles Grace	Dan Holloway (L) Kimber Bradbury Jim Callaway Sandee Savarese & Steve Thacker	Dan Holloway (L) Kimber Bradbury Jim Callaway Sandee Savarese & Steve Thacker	Dan Holloway (L) Kimber Bradbury Jim Callaway Larry Norton
Upper Abrams Creek (5 mile hike round trip) Team Leader Steve Young	(L) Steve Young Rich Ashmore Dave Ezell Denise Jenkins Stacy McDaniel Matt Whited	(L) Steve Young Mark Sollenberger Stacy McDaniel Matt Whited	(L) Steve Young Denise Jenkins Stacy McDaniel David Quave	(L) Steve Young Denise Jenkins Stacy McDaniel Steve Darnell
Upper Little River (14 mile hike – with driver moving vehicle) Team Leader James Locke	James Locke (L) Dan Gaubas (drive only) Steve Van Vleet	Sample being taken by Park Service	James Locke (L) Dan Gaubas (drive only) Steve Van Vleet Matt Whited Davis Black	James Locke (L) Dan Gaubas (drive only) Steve Van Vleet Matt Whited Davis Black
Assign where needed or Serve as Floaters (will fill in when called)	Jeff Wadley		Charlie Chmielewski	Charlie Chmielewski

Contact your Team Leader to provide your availability using the contact information provided by Charlie Chmielewski.

Townsend Elementary Trout In The Classroom Experience

By Charity Rutter,
R&R Fly Fishing

Townsend Elementary School is one of two schools the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited (LRCTU) sponsored for Trout In the Classroom (TITC). It's a project I've discussed with Julia Ross, the science teacher at Townsend Elementary, for two years. When LRCTU President Mike Bryant mentioned the newly allocated Steve Moore Fund would be used to set up fish tanks and trout eggs in classrooms for the project I was excited about the opportunity! TITC is a project started by TU many years ago and is a well known project on a national level. Mike put me in touch with Ernie Frey who has been the contact with a trout hatchery and also set up the project at Maryville's Clayton-Bradley STEM school.

With Townsend being a gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and all the children in the area growing up close to Little River, it was a no brainer. It was a priceless opportunity to educate the kids and give them ownership of what lives in the river and how to take care of it. Ms. Ross is the science teacher for the 3rd, 4th & 5th grade classes at Townsend so we decided her classroom was the perfect place for the trout to live and grow. (All three classes combined are about 55 kids total)

Under Ernie's supervision, Ms. Ross, Willow, our daughter in 4th grade, and I set up the tank and chiller after school one day. We added the insulation and Willow even drew a little picture of trout eggs all in a bundle and taped it to the front of the tank where the basket was placed that would eventually hold the eggs. It was almost as exciting as preparing a nursery for a new baby in the house! The excitement of the children in school the next morning was overwhelming. Over the next few weeks, every time I stepped foot in the school as many as 5 kids would stop me in the hall with the same question "When are we getting the fish eggs?" They were all ready to take on the project.



Ernie Frey delivered the eggs in mid September. Everyone at the elementary school was eager to be involved and start caring for the fish. From the beginning, Ms. Ross showed the kids how to care for the tank by checking the temperature and pH levels of the water. They wanted it to be perfect for "their" trout.

Once the eggs arrived, students had a checklist of chores that included monitoring pH, ammonia, nitrates, and nitrites in the water. The fish developed from eggs and

eventually grew large enough to put in the river. We scheduled the release for Thursday, December 11th. Townsend KOA campground managers Mark & Samantha Chipperfield graciously agreed to let us bring all three classes to the campground to place the baby trout in the river.



I invited Great Smoky Mountains National Park educator Joy Absher to come do a program with the kids about water quality and the responsibility we all have to care for our rivers and streams. She met with each class and gave them each the opportunity to participate in a water quality project in the classroom. This program illustrated how big factors and even seemingly small ones can affect our water quality and the wellness of the wildlife that lives in it. It also made the kids think about what kind of water they wanted to drink, fish, and swim in.

Former GSMNP Supervisory Fishery Biologist Steve Moore came to talk to the kids at the river's edge and help them release the fish. He made it clear to them that most people don't live in a community with a clear running river and beautiful natural surroundings like Townsend provides. He drove his point home by telling them that no one wants to live with polluted water and they would be the ones who would be the guardians of this precious natural resource.

Just as they had learned in class, the kids checked the temp and water quality at the river before the release. Many noted how several factors were much different in the river than the aquarium. Steve was impressed that the kids noticed and explained why those would be different in a river. Each child was given a cup with 2-4 little trout to release. Several



kids named their fish. One boy said "Bye bye, Zippy! Have a great life," as he watched his small fish swim away. The program helped the kids see their own connection to clean water, the river and the fish and wildlife who depend on it.

Here's a letter from Julia Ross, the teacher who led the Trout in the Classroom experience at Townsend Elementary School:

"For many years, I had tossed around the idea of having the children in our school raise fish to release into Little River. I had shared the idea with others from time to time, but I never expected to have this opportunity.

Raising the fish in our school has been a powerful experience. Gaining an understanding of the specific requirements those little beings would need to survive, and the initial preparation for their arrival left me feeling daunted at first.

(The children were only eager.) We learned about the changes that were occurring as our fish developed. As time passed, I was surprised at how much pleasure we would all gain by simply observing the eggs, noticing the parr marks and lateral lines on the fish, or watching the interactions of the fish as they grew.

I was apprehensive about allowing the children to take on the various elements of care for the tank as well. But in doing so, I believe they developed a shared feeling of responsibility for the well-being of these fish. These children will forever care for Little River as the home of "their" fish.

The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students checked the temperature, equipment functionality, water clarity, water level, pH, ammonia levels, nitrite levels, and nitrate levels. (The last two tests didn't change until the very last, but the tests provided more "jobs").... They also fed the fish, monitored mortality counts, removed dead eggs and fish, and they assisted with water changes. Thank you again for giving these experiences to these children.

Sincerely, Julia Ross"



The students, staff and volunteers at Townsend Elementary are anxiously awaiting the arrival of new trout eggs for the classroom in January. We have already scheduled May 15, 2015 as the release of the TITC trout at the KOA, followed by a full day of educational programs in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with the 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students.

I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all the donors, members, and volunteers that helped make this program available to the students of Townsend Elementary School. As a fly fishing guide in East Tennessee and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, I feel it is my responsibility to be an ambassador of the rivers and streams. As a parent, I feel it is my responsibility to teach my children how to become ambassadors of our environment and instill in them a passion to protect our natural resources. My hope is

that if we share our passion for the environment with those around us, then they too will become passionate about protecting and preserving it.

2015 Little River Chapter Officers / Board of Directors

At the December 4, 2014 Membership Meeting, the membership voted in the 2015 Officers / Board of Directors. We have a very capable group of leaders to lead our efforts going into 2015. Many thanks to everyone who is giving their time and talents.

Officers

- President – Mike Bryant
- VP – open
- Secretary – Bill Bolinger
- Treasurer – Sheila Bolinger

Board of Directors

- Dave Anderson
- Charlie Chmielewski
- Wayne Everbach
- Dave Ezell
- Ernie Frey
- Joe Hatton
- Chuck James
- James Locke
- Dan Munger
- Steve Young

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.lrcctu.org