

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

January, 2016 Newsletter



Monthly Meeting

**Thursday, Jan 28
at Calhoun's
Maryville**

President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

My fishing attempts have been noticeably lacking over the last month or so. Lots of excuses (some of them valid) regarding the holidays, family, weather, high water, low water, and / or very cold water. Bill and I did manage to fish near the Elkmont Campground on a day that was supposed to reach 60 degrees. We did find some fish feeding in a pool and I did manage to land a small brown with Bill guiding my casts. But with the water temperature at 42 degrees, most of the fish were hunkered down. That brown was my only fish of the day. I think Bill managed to raise a couple of rainbows. Not much to write home about, but we were outdoors and pretty much had the stream to ourselves.

I'll be gearing up for the annual Everglades trip that Jan and I make every winter. I love fly fishing for trout in the Park and saltwater species in the Everglades. Both places are beautiful in their own special way. I am blessed to be able to fish both.

With the 2016 Board of Directors and Officers now in place, we have started mapping out plans for the new year. Probably the biggest challenge will be in fundraising. To keep it fresh we will be trying some new ways to raise funds for the Park and the Steve Moore Youth Education Fund. I'll be sharing more details in the next couple of months. We will continue to support Matt and his crew with our volunteer efforts. We expect to continue growing our Trout-in-the-Classroom program, expanding the number of 5 Rivers college fishing clubs in Tennessee and helping with this year's Trout Camp.



I would be remiss if I didn't provide a big THANK YOU to the four Board members who rotated off the BOD this year – Sheila Bolinger, Wayne Everbach, Chuck James and James Locke. Each has made major contributions to our Chapter and the Park. I will be acknowledging their efforts at upcoming meetings, but please let them know that you appreciate their efforts and leadership.

Check out Steve Young's article on the Trout-in-the-Classroom release event last December. Our TIC program is going strong and will continue to grow in our region. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed with your time, talents and contributions!

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

-Mike

Tie & Lie: Monday Feb 8

Tie and Lie night will be held on Feb. 8 at The Casual Pint Maryville, on Watkins Road across from Target from 6 till 8pm. We will be tying Walter Babb's Smoky Mountain Candy fly. This fly was in the Readers Favorites section in Fly Tyer magazine summer 2015. A food truck will be available for those who need dinner. Come and tie with us and fill that fly box for a great 2016 season.

Thanks
Ernie Frey



Matt Kulp Presents Annual "State of the Park" Address

Monthly Meeting – Thursday, January 28

It's that time of the year when Great Smoky Mountains National Park Supervisory Fishery Biologist Matt Kulp provides his annual overview of fisheries programs in the Park.

Matt will talk in detail about Brook Trout restoration and what the future looks like for our favorite National Park. Matt says, "I will cover the status of Lynn Camp Prong monitoring efforts, the brook trout distribution revisit study, brook trout metapopulation genetics the study on upper Little River, determining critical loads to protect the park from acid rain, fish and water project plans for 2016 and volunteer opportunities for 2016. I am looking forward to the meeting."



This is always our best attended meeting of the year. Matt does a great job discussing past successes, current challenges and future direction for our streams in the Park. It's program you don't want to miss. We will again be meeting at Calhoun's in Maryville. Social hour starts at 6:00 pm, with the business meeting / program starting at 7:00 pm. You do not have to buy dinner to attend.

2016 Water Sampling Kickoff Meeting February 6

The addition of a new collection site (there are now five) provides the need for additional volunteers for our water sampling program in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park! Attached is an announcement about the need for continued water sampling and the need for volunteers to keep the program going

The kickoff meeting for existing and new volunteers in the 2016 sampling will be held Feb. 6 at the Park Headquarters behind Sugarlands Visitor Center. If you can help, or would like to learn more about the program, please contact volunteer coordinator Charlie Chmielewski. Also, a head count is needed for the free breakfast provided, so let Charlie know ahead of the meeting so enough food will be available. To sign up contact Charlie either by phone at 865-661-7325 or by email: charieflyfish@gmail.com

Water Sampling Meeting on Saturday, February 6, 2016 come to the meeting at Great Smoky Mountains National Park Headquarters to learn more about the Acid Deposition Sampling Program that began in 1993 to see how you can help in 2016!!

Why is the Program Important?

- Acid Deposition is a serious problem that has destroyed trout habitat in the Park.
- Because of our data, regional air emissions have significantly improved but the streams are still in current and long term danger.
- Measurements need to continue to monitor improvement and to better understand the plant, soil, geology, and stream interactions affecting improvements in the water.

How Do I Learn More and Help?

Sign up to attend the meeting on Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 9:00 AM at Park Headquarters.

- At the meeting we will provide up to date results and predictions, show the routes, conduct training, explain the sample teams, and get input for the schedule for the next year of sampling.

"I want to thank all of you who have helped make this program that is a joint effort of TU, the National Park Service, and the University of Tennessee work since 1993. It has made a huge difference obtaining data that has contributed to reductions in acid emissions in our air."

-Charlie

Free at Last!

Trout in Classroom Groups Release Trout Parr in December

By Steve Young

Elementary School Classes from three different schools participated in releasing into the Little River in Townsend the trout that they 'raised' and watched grow in their classroom as part of the Little River Chapter sponsored Trout in the Classroom program.

Approximately 125 students along with 10 – 12 teachers and aids participated in the release. As an added bonus a number of parents of students from each class attended; many parents reported on the enthusiasm with which the students became involved with the overall program and their excitement about the field trip to release their fish.

Three first grade classes from John Sevier Elementary School in Maryville did their release on a beautiful Tuesday morning at the KOA



Charity Rutter with a 1st grader



Caleb Abramson Addresses 1st Graders

campground in Townsend. One of the classes, taught by Kim Fuchs with LRCTU member Steve Young as the TIC Coordinator, actually had the tank in their room, performed water chemistry, and fed the fish while 2 other classes on the same school 'team' helped with the release. As part of the day several other LRCTU members and GSMNP Staff help present other aspects of trout life and habitat; GSMNP Fisheries Technician Caleb Abramson started the program off by talking to the students about the river and its ecology, Rachell Wilhelm and Charlie Chmielewski pulled some nymphs from the water to show the students real trout food versus the powdered pellets the students fed the fish in the classroom. Ian and Charity Rutter were the release 'wardens' while Jim Jeswald and Steve Young compared the water chemistry of the river with that the children were monitoring in the tank in the classroom.

Later in the same day third graders from Townsend Elementary led by teacher Julia Ross and assisted by her TIC Coordinator Charity Rutter, released their fish. Ian Rutter, Rachell Wilhelm, Jim Jeswald, and Steve Young repeated their presentations to this group of students.

On Thursday of the same week – with even more rain - 4th graders from Porter Elementary School led by teacher Jennifer Childers along with volunteer coordinators Tim and Jama Hurst released their fish. As Bill Bollinger, our LRCTU TIC Coordinator for the school, said "neither fish nor fourth graders care about rain!"

Anyone present will witness to the success of our Trout in the Classroom program as reflected in the students' enthusiasm for learning about the fish and their growth as well as the other aspects of river ecology that is part of the program.

Iron Man Fly Contest

Can you tie from a mystery bag of materials? How about blindfolded? You get the idea, big fun for a good cause! If you've got game, then be a participant or just come and be in the audience to jeer or cheer tyers on January 21st at the first Iron Man Fly Contest being held by the Great Smoky Mountain TU chapter. The contest will be at the Blackhorse Pub, 4429 Kingston Pike. Sponsors include Southern Trout magazine, Syndicate Fly Fishing of Knoxville, Orvis-Sevierville, and Little River Outfitters of Townsend, TN.



The field of tiers is limited to 25 people who pay a registration fee of \$25 to compete for a chance to win a Syndicate rod, or Orvis Access reel, or a fly tying kit from Little Rivers Outfitters!

Registration fees go to sponsor a child at this year's Trout Camp. Whether a pro or beginner, this contest levels the field and at least three people are carrying home a prize; and best of all feel great about helping a child. To get registered, email chapter president, John Reinhardt today at john71111@yahoo.com or by phone at 865-556-3141.

North Carolina Fly Tying Opportunity

Have you ever wanted to learn more about fishing the "other" side of the mountains? The Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited is holding its annual Fly Fishing School on Saturday, April 23, 2016, from 8:30 am to 4:45 pm at Harmon Field in Tryon.

Students will receive not only a full day of practical instruction from experienced anglers covering the basics of fly fishing including equipment; casting; line management; and stream tactics; they will also get a 1/2 day session of "hands on" learning on one of the area's trout rich rivers or streams. The combination of the classroom instruction and on-the-water guided practice makes this one of the most unique and economical fly fishing schools available in our area.

The cost of the school (which includes lunch on Saturday, the 23rd) is \$150 for adults and \$100 for kids (ages 12 – 18). The price for a student of the 5 – Rivers Outreach Program is \$125. Equipment for the class will also be provided. Early Bird Special: \$25 off the price of the school if registration and payment are received before March 1, 2016.

For more information or to register for the school, please visit the PCTU website at www.pisgahchapter.tu.org or Lou Barlow at riverrooster@me.com or (828) 230-4446. Class size is limited. Early registration is recommended.

All proceeds from the school help support the various Trout Unlimited educational and environmental programs in Western North Carolina.

Aside:

Friends of late founding and long-time member Ken Henderson paid tribute to the angler by honoring his request to spread his ashes on the waters he loved to fish. His ashes were duly placed on the waters of Ft. Loudon lake and in a woody area of the mountains.

Ken helped establish the Eddy George Award to recognize chapter members for outstanding support of the Park Service work. Then Ken generously built and donated the Sage rod outfit presented with the award every year except this past year when he was no longer able.

Over the years Ken gave much to TU and our Chapter. His contributions include:

- Demonstrating fly tying at many of LRCTU events
- Serving as a key person in getting the fly tying and casting class started for the Pi Beta Phi School in Gatlinburg



Center in Townsend and Mrs. Mona George together to create the Eddie George display (on rotating basis)

- Being the one you could call in the middle of a snow storm when your heat went out because he worked as a heat and air technician and would help anyone who called.

- Helping a number of members build our own fly rods
- Making a rod building CD available to the chapter to sell & raise money
- Participating in many on-stream work events like fish monitoring, and the acid deposition water sampling where he served as team leader for a number of years
- Getting the Smoky Mountains Heritage



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