

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

January, 2017 Newsletter



Monthly Meeting

**Thursday, Jan 26
at Calhoun's
Maryville**

President's Corner

Well it is the start of the new year and the Chapter has a new president. I would like to introduce myself, I am Ernest (Ernie) Frey. I have been in the chapter several years and have been very active with Chapter's trout in the classroom program from its inception. Seeing the joy that having those trout in the room brings to the children is very rewarding.

This year is the Chapter's 25th anniversary and we are planning several activities to celebrate the event. We would like to honor the founding members with a dinner and have a Fall festival on a weekend for our younger members who cannot join us on weekdays.

The Southeast Regional Trout Unlimited meeting is scheduled for April 21 - 23 in Gatlinburg. All of the Tennessee chapters have been asked to help support the meeting. Chapters from the 8 southeastern states will be asked to attend.

All of our regular events will also be continuing, like the monthly meeting, Tie and Lie, river clean-up, trout in the classroom and last but not least park volunteering. Finally, I would like to thank Mike Bryant for his leadership of the Chapter these last 4 years and also Bill Bolinger and Dave Ezell who are rotating off the Board. They have been critical in having an active chapter. I would also like to thank Jim Jeswald who has agreed to be Secretary, Jake Comstock who was willing to take over the newsletter editor position and to all of the board members who are staying on the board.



Suggested New Year's resolutions:

- Clean up fly tying desk
- Clean-up wading boots and waders
- Strip the line and backing off the reel and clean
- Lubricate the reel
- Clean fly rod and check the guides
- Clean the fly box and check the flies
- Clean out fly vest or bag

Ernie Frey's personal resolutions

- Clean out fishing closet
- Continue fishing Little River
- Finish bamboo fly rod

New Year Kicks Off with State of the Park Presentation by Matt Kulp

Our January program will feature Great Smoky Mountains National Park Supervisory Fisheries Biologist Matt Kulp as he gives our annual "state of the fisheries" talk. Matt will give an overview of what's going on with our beloved wild trout fishery and will present data from the previous year. The meeting will be held at Calhoun's Maryville, in the same complex as Target. Social hour starts at 6:00 p.m. with the business/program beginning at 7:00 p.m. You do not have to eat dinner to attend.



TU Council Meeting in Chattanooga

The location of the annual Coldwater Meeting and quarterly Tennessee Council Meeting will be Saturday, Jan. 21, starting at 9 a.m. at the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute's new research facility in Chattanooga (not at the aquarium itself as previously stated). Afterward there'll be a behind-the-scenes tour of the new conservation research center.

It's going to be a great experience—but if you want to participate, get your name in fast. Space in the meeting room is limited to 35 people, so RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE! To reserve your seat, contact Council Chair Mike Bryant at mibryant1954@hotmail.com or (513) 697-9576.

The Coldwater Meeting will feature presentations from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tennessee Valley Authority and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. For more information about the aquarium, <http://www.tnaqua.org/>. From downtown the research facility is only a 10-minute drive; from the hotels along I-75, downtown is 10 or 15 minutes away and the research center is 25 minutes.

Some participants have already arranged to stay at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Chattanooga Downtown, 434 Chestnut St., (423) 777-5858. Go to <https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels> for more information. "Chattanooga is a large small town," says Steve Fry of TU's Appalachian Chapter. "If you want to see the town, stay downtown." Chain hotels with the best locations near the riverfront include Hilton Garden Inn, Marriott Courtyard, Hampton Inn, Doubletree, Holiday Inn [mentioned above], Springhill Suites, Staybridge Suites, Marriott.

"Other good hotels include The Read House (classic 19th Century) and The Chattanooga (nice but pricey). The Days Inn at Rivergate and Holiday Inn Express are OK. The rest of the downtown hotels are not in walking distance to any fun activities."

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN TU IRON MAN FLY CONTEST



Iron Man Contest Coming Up

Great Smoky Mountain Chapter's annual Iron Man Fly Contest—a zany competition cooked up to raise money for trout campers—will be Thursday, Jan. 19, at 6 p.m. at Blackhorse Pub & Brewery, 4429 Kingston Pike, Knoxville.

Entry fee for contestants is \$30, benefiting camp scholarships; onlookers can enjoy the spectacle free. For details, http://greatsmokymountain.tu.org/?_ga=1.10072885.1453199195.1461105815.



TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

By Joyce Frey

During December, 9 of our 11 schools each successfully released more than 100 rainbow trout. It was cold, and on some days a bit rainy, but all the students and their chaperons had a great time. Caleb with NPS came out to talk with them and shocked up some fish out of the river near the Townsend KOA. We also had a water quality station and a bug station in which the students participated.

Since Porter and Townsend Elementary schools are still raising their fish for a release in May, they released only a portion of their fish. This partial release will allow them to grow a smaller number, but



they should be much bigger. Since I haven't heard anything from either school, let's hope everything is going well.

The 9 schools and coordinators are now in the process of setting up the tanks in preparation for the spring season. In some cases, the tanks are even being moved to a different teacher and class. Eggs are projected to be available the end of January or beginning of February.

We are always looking for school coordinators and assistance coordinators to help the teachers. You can email me at jmfrey@comcast.net if you'd like to be involved.

Chapter Camping Trips!

The camping trips schedule this year are May 5-7 at Elkmont campgrounds group site 2 and October 6 – 8 at Cattalochee campgrounds group site 1. We have changed the order of the camping trips because of the S.E. Regional T.U meeting and Cattalochee was booked. It also allows members an easier trip to the campgrounds so a day trip in May would be possible. Cattalochee in the Fall should be spectacular.

License Plates Reminder



Three large grants funded by the Trout Unlimited Conservation license plate were awarded at the November meeting of the Tennessee Council—providing support for brook trout restoration in the Smokies, for the Great Smoky Mountains Trout Adventure Camp and for conservation work on Briar Creek in Washington County. To read more, <http://tctu.org/index.html>

Tie & Lie: Monday, Jan 23rd



Tie and Lie

We will be tying the beadhead soft-hackle pheasant tail. I saw this pattern in Southern Trout Magazine and it looked interesting. As usual, we will be at the Casual Pint in Maryville from 6:00 till 8:00. Come over and tie one!

Ernie Frey \

ernest.frey@comcast.net

Some Thoughts on Fly Tying

Mike Bryant

The KISS Principle – Keep It Simply Stupid

The KISS Principle has been around forever. For good reason – it works. At times when things seem to be moving out of control, I tend to step back and get organized by first simplifying my life.

I have found that this approach works with my inventory of flies. In the past, without any apparent forethought, I would randomly add new flies to boxes already filled to capacity, resulting in a chaotic hodge podge of fur, feathers, and thread. Adding more fly boxes wasn't the answer. This all led to paralysis of thought on the water, leading to doubts and constant questioning on whether I had the right fly. What I

learned over time is my success on the water had more to do with my approach to fishing than having the right fly. You know the basics - a good cast, a good drift with a fly that provides the impression of life leads to more hookups. This is vastly more important than carrying every conceivable size, shape, and color fly in a Richardson chest fly box crammed with thousands of flies in an attempt to cover all your bases.

What I found is that by simplifying my fly selection, I was forced to improve my skills on the water which ultimately improved my success rate on the stream and overall enjoyment.

So, how do you use the KISS Principle?

- First build a short list of your confidence flies. You know those flies that just seem to work for you. I have mine – Parachute Adams with a trailing shuck, Haystacks, etc.
- Remove from your box any fly you haven't tied onto a tippet in the last year or so. All it's doing is taking up space and increasing your clutter. Either throw it out or donate it, but get it out of your box.

With the fly patterns, you do retain, don't keep every possible size, shape, color combo that you can dream up. I use a lot of parachute style dry flies in the Park. I have one box designated for parachutes with three colors – Adams gray, yellow, and olive. The Adams and yellow parachutes are in sizes #14 and #16 only. The olives are in sizes #16-#18 for BWO's. All my posts are made from fluorescent fiber material (Spirit River). In addition, I carry only two adult caddis patterns, including my favorite CDC & Elk is sizes #14– #18. That's it.



Then organize your fly boxes. I organize my boxes by the type of water (tailwaters / mountain streams / saltwater / etc.), the fish being targeted (brook trout, smallies, snook, etc.) and the season (typically a spring / summer and a fall / winter combo). Within these boundaries, I filled my boxes with dry flies, nymphs, streamers, soft hackles, midge, etc. following the guidelines suggested above. This allows me to have some variety without carrying my entire inventory of flies on every trip.

I still love to experiment with new flies. To me this is half the fun and challenge of fly tying and fly fishing. But after a period of time, if I feel like the fly isn't working, I'll remove it from my box.

So, open up those old fly boxes with those long forgotten flies. Simplify your fly fishing life and improve your skills by simplifying your fly selection.



2017 Water Sampling Kickoff Meeting February 11

Come to the meeting at Great Smoky Mountains National Park Headquarters to learn more about the Acid Deposition Sampling Program. The Program began in 1993 with volunteers gathering water samples and needs volunteers scheduled to continue in 2017!!

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 11, 2017 at 9:00 AM at Park Headquarters.

- To sign up contact Charlie Chmielewski at charlieflyfish@gmail.com mobile phone 865-661-7325.
- The meeting will finish before noon.
- A free breakfast will be provided, so please notify Charlie ahead of the meeting to ensure enough food will be available.
- 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.



CAMPGROUND ACTIVITIES

- Swimming pool
- Outdoor movies
- Bike and tube rentals
- Playground with climbing wall
- Basketball court
- Planned recreation

Townsend / Great Smokies KOA
 8533 State Highway 73 | Townsend, TN 37882
 townsend@koa.net | koa.com/campgrounds/townsend-great-smokies
 800-562-3428
 Find us on Facebook.com/TownsendGreatSmokiesKOA

Thank you!!

For at least 5 years Townsend/Great Smokies KOA has graciously invited our volunteers and children from all over east Tennessee to release trout from their banks, along the Little River, Townsend, Tennessee. Their hospitality is greatly appreciated.

Trout Camp Registration Underway

Registration has started for the seventh annual Great Smoky Mountains Trout Adventure Camp for middle school girls and boys, sponsored by the Tennessee Council TU. The camp will be June 19-24, 2017, at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

To read more, <http://tctu.org/more-news.html>

Steve Young

steve_y@earthlink.net

TU Southeast Regional Meeting Coming to Gatlinburg

The mountains are calling ... The trout are rising ... Come home to Tennessee! The 2017 Trout Unlimited Southeast Regional Meeting, for TU folks from eight states, will be April 21-23 in Gatlinburg.

To read more about it, <http://tctu.org/index.html> and <http://www.tuseregional2017.org/>

John Reinhardt

john711111@yahoo.com

Great Smoky Mountain Chapter



Welcome Aboard Jake!

Say hello to your new LRCTU Newsletter editor, Jake Comstock. Jake and his family are residents of Kinzel Springs (look it up). He has been a TU member for several years, helping with stream sampling and other activities. His son, Cade, was a participating member in one of the chapter's early Trout in the Classroom programs and has attended Trout Camp. Jake has some great ideas for making the newsletter a more effective communications tool. Please help him by providing your input and with articles and pictures that can be included in our monthly issues.

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