

# Trout Unlimited

## Little River Chapter



### NEXT MEETING

Monday

January 22nd

## President's Corner

With the New Year comes some changes. We will be meeting at a new location, **Barley's Maryville**, which is located in downtown Maryville next to the parking garage. The meeting date has also changed. We will be meeting on the **fourth Tuesday of the month** except for January, July and the end of the year holiday season. In July we will have our normal picnic meeting at River John's and our end of the year meeting will be December 4<sup>th</sup>. **The January meeting will be on the Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup>**, another change, with social hour starting at 6 and meeting at 7. For those who like adult beverages, social hour will also be happy hour. Wait staff will take your orders when you arrive and intend to bring your check with your meal so payment can be made and finalized easily.



128 W Broadway Avenue.  
Maryville, TN

Speaker:  
Dennis Baxter,  
Former Pres - Clinch Chapter  
Biologist for TVA

This is also the time for New Year's resolutions. I don't know about you but I haven't thought too much about it. I would like to fish more this year but that isn't anything special and I haven't finished my bamboo rod which I was supposed to finish last year. That would be a good project to finish.

Dennis Baxter will be the speaker for the January meeting. Dennis is the past president of the Clinch Chapter and is a biologist for TVA. He will be talking about the biology of tailwaters.

**The Chapter is still looking for a vice-president, who wants to be president next year.**

Hope to see you at the new meeting place!

## Expert advice for fishing rainbow trout in winter

Just like their brook trout cousins, rainbows are typically found relating to relatively shallow water during the winter, especially around the mouths of weedy bays, coves and inlets. And as with brookies, I typically find the rainbows cruising just above the bottom when the water is less than five feet deep.

However, when the water is slightly deeper—say, 10 to 12 feet—rainbows behave quite differently, usually gliding in the middle of the water column. I'm certain this is a feeding strategy the more aggressive rainbows have adopted to attack small minnows, insects and crustaceans, either above or below them.

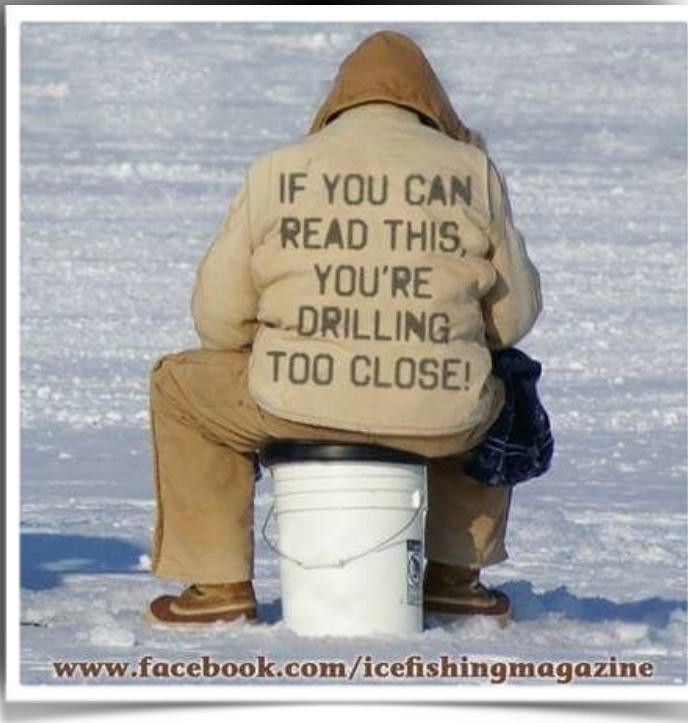
Rainbows in small lakes and ponds also have a tendency to move around much more than brookies, albeit not in a random fashion. Instead, they tend to never stray too far from the lake's most fertile sections. Knowing this, I get excited whenever I find a shallow weedy bay at one end of a lake—I know a sizable portion of the local rainbow population will be relating to it, cruising around the mouth of the bay and pushing up into it a bit, or roaming the drop-off area just outside of it.



On the other hand, if I can't find a weedy cove, I can just about guarantee I'll cross paths with the fish if I drill my holes and start ice fishing over the flattest, shallowest section of the lake.



The next high-percentage spot is a deep-water cut or inside turn looping into a large area of shallower water. The trout gather in these enclosed confines, and you can often catch them by jigging in a variety of depths—from as little as five feet to as much as 15 feet below the surface. When I find one of these corrals looping into a shallow bay or lake section, I'll pinpoint the edge of the drop-off with my sonar and drill holes at least 50 feet away, setting up over the deeper water to catch the roaming rainbows.



Just keep in mind that when you're ice fishing in these corral-like areas, the trout can see for a considerable distance in the gin-clear water. In this case, the name of the game is always to attract the fish first, then trigger them to bite when they come in to play.

Here's another rainbow trout characteristic unique to these small lakes: the fish love to roam up and down deep edges, so obvious points are always great spots to fish. That said, don't ignore the shorter, seemingly insignificant secondary and tertiary points—they can be even better. Why? I suspect these small points concentrate the rainbows more tightly, fuelling their competitive nature to bite when they spot a lure.

For the full article and credits go to: <http://www.outdoorcanada.ca/expert-advice-for-fishing-rainbow-trout-in-winter>

## Trout in the Classroom

by Joyce Frey

It's hard to believe, but the spring TIC program has already started. Coordinators and teachers are busy getting tanks set up and ready for eggs in February. The Buffalo Springs Hatchery told us the eggs are coming from Montana this season. We'll see if that makes any difference.

The Episcopal School of Knoxville, which had planned to hold their fish over until May, released their fish the second week in January. The students couldn't get a handle on the nitrate levels after returning from the Christmas break. In order to avoid a mass die-off, Wendy decided to release them a few months early. Check out our Facebook page for a video of the 3 inchers in the tank prior to being released.

A new school was added to our program, Lenoir City High School. Andy Kerr is the 10<sup>th</sup> grade special education science teacher. They are all excited about participating.

Our other new school, Carpenters Elementary, has decided not to join us. They decided they didn't have the space and it was going to be too much for them to keep up with. Since we were advised late in the process, our community tank will again be staged at the Little River Outfitters in Townsend.

We are always looking for help. If you'd like to assist one of our schools, let me know.

## **Water Sampling Meeting on Saturday, February 24, 2018**

Come to the meeting at Great Smoky Mountains National Park Twin Creeks Science Center to learn more about the Acid Deposition Sampling Program that began in 1993 to see how you can help in 2018!!

### **Why is the Program Important?**

- Acid Deposition is a serious problem that has destroyed trout habitat in the Park.
- Our data has been an input into significant regional air emissions improvements 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 24, 2018 at 9:00 AM at the Park Service Twin Creeks Science Center.

- To sign up contact Charlie Chmielewski at [charlieflyfish@gmail.com](mailto:charlieflyfish@gmail.com) mobile phone 865-661-7325 or
- 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 results and predictions, show the routes, conduct training, explain the sample teams, and get input for the schedule for the next year of sampling.



**National Park Service**

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**- next page -**

# **All Park Service Fisheries Volunteers Must Submit Signed Agreements**

The National Park Service at Great Smoky Mountains National Park is asking every volunteer to sign an individual Volunteer in Parks Agreement and a Position Description from December 2017 forward, unless the individual already has an agreement in place. The past practice of group agreements with TU is no longer being used.

- This requires completing two forms.
- Once the forms are completed and submitted, they will be valid for all future volunteer work in support of the Fisheries Department with no renewal necessary.
- The Agreement and Position Description forms must be completed before any upcoming volunteer work is performed.

The Park Service forms and directions can be found on the Chapter Web Page ([lrctu.org](http://lrctu.org)) under the "Projects" heading.

Your cooperation on this, like all the work you have performed in support of Park Fisheries already is very much appreciated. So, as always, thanks for your help. Without it, Acid Deposition Sampling, past and ongoing Brook Trout Restoration, and many other activities could not be done.