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**STREAMS OF THOUGHT—NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT - Steve Young  
Christmas Lights and Leader, and a Better Year in 2021**

Happy 2021 to all!! I join you in wishing (hoping?) for a better this year than last. Despite the restrictions I have been able to indulge in my favorite social distancing pastime of fishing!!-mostly in the park. I hope you have also. Only lately have the cold snaps and lowered stream water temps kept me indoors—more time for fly tying!

I always thought that untangling a dry/dropper on 5x tippet after a missed strike or a tree encounter was the worst—until I unpacked our Christmas lights for the Holidays. I have been schooled again! All I gained was the re-realization that

patience is a virtue in many aspects of life.

Patience will be a virtue as we negotiate 2021. Frustratingly, early 2021 will be much the same as most of 2020; COVID restrictions in place that I hope we all continue to follow. For LRCTU that means no live meetings indoors, masks and social distancing when we do meet outside. However, we will be trying to air some programs via the ZOOM route starting with Matt Culp's annual GSMNP update. Watch for the announcement and invitation to the online meeting. I am hoping we can have our first live meeting in July with our annual picnic at River John's.

A big difference for this year is the vaccine introduction. Because of my service with the Dandridge Fire Department and my lymphoma history I have already gotten the first MODERNA application and by the time you read this the second. I will keep you posted on the after effects. Despite the vaccination, I plan to maintain the handwashing, masks, and social distancing protocols for a while; this is really a necessity because the experts say even though I shouldn't get sick I can still be a transmitter.

Little River Chapter like all of TU relies on volunteers to lead the way. This year we have a great Board of Directors who were introduced in the last Newsletter—save one. We need someone to step up as **PROGRAM CHAIR**. While this can be somewhat daunting, whoever takes this on will have a great head start; the previous Program Chair, Chuck James, had a great set of programs lined up—and we didn't use any of them! I have all the names and contact information; these individuals just need to be contacted and dates set up.

We have a number of other projects planned that will require LRCTU members participation to be successful. They are listed below in the **Projects / Chapter Activities** section with the name of the Coordinator and their contact information. If interested please contact them directly. And I am sure more projects will arise that will need members' participation to be successful; we will keep you posted.

Whew!! That was a load—I promise (at least try) not to be so wordy but I wanted to get all of this out in front of the membership as we head into the new year.

Best Wishes and Tight Lines! – Steve Y

### **Upcoming Programs**

While we can't meet physically, we can meet virtually, in our case via ZOOM. Many of you, I suspect have used this tool in other aspects of your life. We have had a

board meeting via that as well as several different meetings associated with the TN Council of TU. I have also had several associated with Trout Camp activities. It works, if requiring a little patience on the part of all participants.

We have a couple of programs planned.

In **January** Matt Culp will be presenting his annual update on the Park; always a program with a high interest level on the part of our membership.

In **February** the Rutters have agreed to give a program on Winter Fishing in the mountains. I don't know about y'all, but my skill set with this kind of fishing is pretty minimal, so I am looking forward to this presentation.

We will be sending out ZOOM invitations a few days before the scheduled meeting.

#### **Projects / Chapter Activities by Steve Young**

Pistol Creek Cleanup—Coordinator-Ernie Frey ([ernest.frey@comcast.net](mailto:ernest.frey@comcast.net)). LRCTU has committed to a mile of Pistol Creek from the 321 Bridge to the Ponds in downtown Maryville behind the Library as our Adopt a Stream. This is in association with the trout stocking through the winter by the TWRA; a program that has received rave reviews from all involved. Many thanks to Ernie for working with the City of Maryville and the TWRA to make this happen. Our commitment is to lead a cleanup of that stretch of water, 2 times per year, once before stocking and once afterward. We want to develop a program with Keep Blount County Beautiful to make the fall event a city-wide draw with advertising, etc.

Online Auction—Coordinator-Larry Davis ([ledavis97@gmail.com](mailto:ledavis97@gmail.com)). We have slipped a little in our financial commitment to Fisheries Department of the Park. While it smacks of Trout Fest, an online auction promises to be a little easier. We are aiming for the late fall and probably would combine it with our annual 'white elephant' auction (sale of gently used fishing gear by LRCTU members) so that both groups could benefit.

Water Sampling/Fisheries Projects—Coordinator-Richard Barnes ([canceleer1@gmail.com](mailto:canceleer1@gmail.com)). Our ongoing projects in the National Park include bi-monthly water sampling treks on selected streams and summer IBIs and Brook Trout census and restoration. There is always room for more volunteers in this program. Richard also coordinates our annual Little River cleanup in the Park which has skipped a year or so while we worked out safety issues with the Park staff but is back—a great outdoor activity with natural social distancing!

Trout in the Classroom—Coordinator-Jim Jeswald ([jmjes711@gmail.com](mailto:jmjes711@gmail.com)). Our TIC program has suffered as much as any during this past year. However, some schools have gone ahead with the program while others have not. Jim has done a yeoman job keeping our end up and running. We always need volunteers to help individual schools as well as at the releases at the end of the semester.

Trout Camp—Coordinators-Steve Young, Director ([steve\\_y@earthlink.net](mailto:steve_y@earthlink.net)) and Sean Fagen, Assistant Director ([sp220f@aol.com](mailto:sp220f@aol.com)). At this time we, along with the Great Smoky Mountain Institute at Tremont, are planning on holding a full Trout Camp program during June (16 – 21). Obviously as the COVID response evolves we will have to evolve also. Trout camp has some 45 or so volunteer spots that need filling. See our website at [tntroutadventure.org](http://tntroutadventure.org) for more information.

Recruiting—Vice President-Bob Bishop ([bishmoose@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bishmoose@sbcglobal.net)). COVID isolation has hurt with attracting new members also. We are particularly interested in aiming significant efforts to attracting younger folks, including college-age.

Weekly Fishing Outings—until this protracted cold hit and really reduced water temperatures, members were meeting regularly on Tuesday to head somewhere to fish. During the summer we set up a couple of Saturdays for the same. It has been pretty informal so far but it would be nice to have someone to coordinate this activity.

Tie and Lie—another casualty of the COVID epidemic. A group met regularly at the Casual Pint in Maryville to tie flies and, yes, lie a little about past catches. With the social protocols this was tabled. Furthermore, the Casual Pint has turned their meeting room into a game room so we could use another venue. We are making up for this with a regular column in our newsletter on fly tying but we all miss the social contact—and the lying

### **Pistol Creek by Ernie Frey**

Pistol Creek was stocked in December and I have heard some great stories of the size and number of fish caught. The Hatchery had stocked some very large brood trout. On my visit to Pistol Creek, I was happy to see the number of fishermen, and the number of fathers and sons, and mothers and sons fishing.

The next stocking will be around January 21 or 22. Get out there and enjoy the stream.

### **Trout in the Classroom by Jim Jeswald**

We are currently checking with the schools and their coordinators to determine if the spring season is going to happen. We currently still have fish at Heritage High School and Townsend Elementary, but unfortunately the other schools will most likely not participate again this spring.

David Wietlisbach, a science teacher at Heritage High has some information on his tank experiences from last season. He raised trout from eggs received in February 2020 through the summer and then received eggs in October 2020.

My students were so engaged with last year's trout and wanted to keep them longer, so I challenged them to design a barrier in the tank that would protect the new alevin but still allow free flow of water through the tank. They came up with a design that I thought would work. We built it and installed it. We released most of last year's trout into the Little River in Townsend, leaving just four of the biggest ones. The barrier gave the large trout about 80% of the tank.

We had very little difficulty maintaining water quality. The eggs hatched with minimal mortality of the alevin. Out of approximately 150 eggs I probably had 100 alevin make it to the fry stage. A few days after I released them from the floating cage into their protected side of the tank, I was diagnosed with COVID-19 and was quarantined from school for two weeks. I had students feeding the fish and monitoring the water quality. Those two things were done well. However, when I returned to school, all but about 10 fry were missing. The students do not believe they died. There is no proof as it was never observed but they believe the tiny fry were somehow finding a way past the barrier and then getting eaten by the large trout on the other side. We have not lost any since I have returned. This could be because in those two weeks, the fry grew to a size making it impossible to get past the barrier.

It was an interesting trial. We are going to keep the barrier for future use should we want to do something like that again in the future. The larger trout are between 6 and 8 inches long. I am planning on releasing them into the Little River in Townsend this weekend. Then we will remove the barrier and give the young trout the entire tank. Julia Ross at Townsend Elementary has several hundred young trout in her tank. Her tank is actually getting over crowded as her trout are growing. We are going to move about 100 of hers into mine after I release the big ones.





## Bugs and Flies by Ernie Frey

January - March			
Hatch	January	February	March
Blue-winged Olives	All Month	All Month	All Month
Blue Quills		2nd Half	All Month
Quill Gordons		Last Week	All Month
Hendrickson and Red Quill			Last Week
Little Black Caddis		2nd Half	All Month
Winter Black Stoneflies	All Month	All Month	All Month
Early Brown Stoneflies		2nd Half	All Month
Midges	All Month	All Month	All Month

Smokey Mountain Hatch Chart of the 1st quarter of 2021 has been provided by **David Knapp of Trout Zone Anglers.**

Since no one let us know what fly they wanted to tie for February, we made the decision on the Parachute Blue Wing Olive (BWO).

Blue winged olives are of the genus *Baetis* which covers approximately 150 varieties of mayflies, from quills to adams. Blue winged olives are generally a small size 16 to

22 mayfly with grey wings and a brown to light olive body. Dismal weather invites the best hatches of *Baetis* mayflies; look for them on overcast, rainy days, as long as the water temperature is above 40 degrees. They can become spinners within a few hours or up to a few days. The mayfly nymph is generally active and will move to search for new habitat on a daily basis. The hatching mayfly dead-drifts along the surface, bouyed up by gas bubbles. Hatches begin as early as late September and continue through April, with the highest activity in February and early March.



There are a zillion ways and materials to use to tie the parachute BWO. Below is a video from Tom Cammisa which includes his recipe and technique.

Let us know if you have a preference for the February newsletter. Remember, these will be flies for March - spring time!



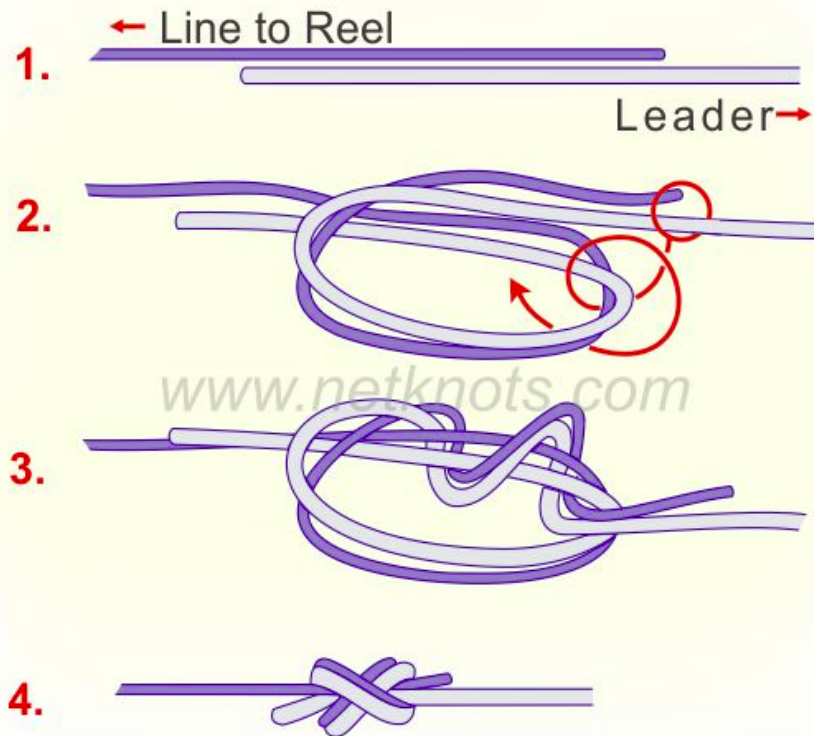
### **Knots by Joyce Frey**

I've had a request to add some information on the most common knots used in fly fishing. I'll start this month with the **double surgeon knot**.

This knot is used to join two different pieces of line, for example tippet to leader. It can also be used to join lines of different materials. It is simply two overhand knots with the entire leader pulled through the knot each time. When properly tied, the Surgeon's Knot approaches 100-percent line strength. It must be tightened by pulling on all four strands to properly seat the knot.



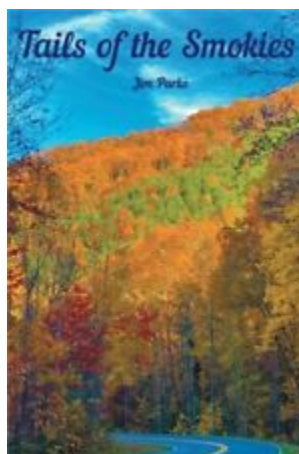
# SURGEON'S KNOT



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[www.netknots.com](http://www.netknots.com)

## Other News



While we don't usually take to promoting non-TU related items that involve being paid for services or items, we are making an exception here. Jim Parks has published a new book (already on Amazon!) about life in the Smokies in early, simpler (?) times. What makes this special is he is donating all the royalties to the Fisheries Department of the Great Smoky Mountains National

Park—an organization dear to all of our hearts!! So, take a look and see if you or someone you know might be interested. It is certainly a good cause!



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