



JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

NOTES FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Trout Unlimited is introducing a new program this year referred to as “Priority Waters” <https://prioritywaters.tu.org/>. As defined by TU, “Priority Waters are the [rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds](#) across the country where Trout Unlimited is directing our energies to care for and recover wild and native trout and salmon watersheds.” You can access the maps of [rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds](#) by clicking on that link. All streams in Great Smoky Mountains National Park are considered priority waters by Trout Unlimited. This designation reinforces the importance of the mission of Little River Chapter “to conserve, protect and restore the coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.” Trout Unlimited specifically mentions the 115 Stream Barrier Surveys accomplished by LRCTU members and the Brook Trout specialty license plates as the two initiatives in Tennessee directly supporting Priority Waters. If you are interested in working on a Stream Barrier Survey team contact Bernie Maloy (52bazzman@gmail.com).



Brook trout license plates are more than a pretty picture. These specialty license plate sales have created over \$100,000 of annual funding that go directly to the Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited. These funds are then available as grant money for projects sponsored by local TU Chapters. LRCTU was awarded an \$11,510 grant for Brook Trout Population Genetic Assessments in GSMNP. Please

consider purchasing a brook trout specialty plate the next time you register your vehicle.



Our Chapter is fortunate to be located in an area with numerous opportunities to volunteer for conservation, community science, and youth education projects. Opportunities include assisting the GSMNP Fisheries Department with their work in the national park, Stream Barrier Surveys in GSMNP, Trout in the Classroom, and the John Thurman Trout Adventure Camp. Matt Kulp, GSMNP Supervisory Fisheries Biologist, will be holding the annual Fisheries Department volunteer meeting at Twin Creeks Science Center on February 17 at 9:00 a.m. Additional information on this meeting is provided in the newsletter under “Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities.”

The Spring session of Trout in the Classroom begins on February 1st with the delivery of about 200 eggs to each participating school. The magnitude of the Trout in the Classroom program is only limited by the size of our volunteer base. If you are interested in becoming involved in the TIC program, contact Kim Emery (kim@topshelfedu.com)

The first Chapter meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday (yes, it's really Wednesday), January 24 at the Bluetick Tavern in Maryville. Matt Kulp, Supervisory Fisheries Biologist for GSMNP, will be the featured speaker. You will not want to miss Matt's annual update on GSMNP fisheries projects. The Chapter will also be presenting a donation to the GSMNP Fisheries Department



Fundraiser for Fisheries Dept - Great
Smoky Mountains National Park

\$9,794 RAISED

MONTHLY MEETING

MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24 @ BLUETIK TAVERN IN MARYVILLE

**Social hour starts at 6:00, program starts at 7:00, business meeting
Ordering from the menu will be in the meeting room from 6:15 to 6:30. After
6:30 you will need to order any food at the bar. Adult beverages must be
ordered and paid at the bar.**

Please note that our meeting is being held **WEDNESDAY, January 24.**

Our speaker for this month will be Matt Kulp, Supervisory Fisheries Biologist for GSMNP. He will present the State of Park Address. Hopefully he will also discuss last week's storm effects. At one point, Little River at the Wye was just over 8,000 CFS. This is a meeting you don't want to miss.

This is the Townsend Wye on the left and the East Prong of Little River on the right. Taken on Tuesday, January 9 after the storm moved through.



UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

By Richard Barnes, Chapter Fisheries Volunteer Coordinator - Tennessee

The Little River Chapter (LRC) of Trout Unlimited was founded to support the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP), specifically the Fisheries Group. Over the years, we have supported Fisheries with significant funds and with thousands of hours of volunteer work. The LRC is extremely active working in the Park.

Acid Water Deposition Sampling is a primary activity for the Park. This type of water sampling started in 1993 without a break in continuity to today. 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. In addition to the acid deposition sampling, there are other summer projects which require volunteers. Some of these additional projects entail wading through streams to assess the health of streams and fish using electroshocking to capture fish. Data concerning the fish and the stream condition are gathered and the fish are returned to the stream.

To support the sampling processes, LRC has an annual meeting every February to report on Park stream status. The specifics of the acid deposition sampling, as well as the other summer work will be provided at this 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 water sampling. Even if you're not interested in volunteering, you might want to attend just to learn about what's happening in the Park. The meeting is open to anyone interested, including older children. Matt Kulp, Supervisory Fisheries Biologist and Caleb Abramson, Fisheries Biologist will be there to discuss the programs and answer any questions.

This year, the meeting is being held Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 9:00 am at the Park Service Twin Creeks Science Center located at 1316 Cherokee Orchard Rd., Gatlinburg, TN. A free breakfast will be provided. If you plan on attending, please notify Richard Barnes at canceler1@gmail.com or 949-212-8480.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



Forty-five (45) LRCTU members have contributed over 2,200 hours of volunteer labor in support of LRCTU sponsored projects since April 2023. Thank you for all you do in support of LRCTU.

> 200 HOURS

Bob Bishop Sara Bishop Joyce Frey Bernie Maloy

> 125 HOURS

Kim Emery Harry Fetterman Ernie Frey

> 75 HOURS

David Tolliver

> 50 HOURS

Steve Croslin Barbra Giorgini

> 25 HOURS

Rich Ashmore	Richard Barnes	Keith Blanton	Tom Feil	Lee Fowler
John Giorgini	Chuck James	Jim Jeswald	Jim Jollay	Connie Miller
Ron Miller	Dan Spradlin			

AT LEAST ONE EVENT

Charlie Chmielewski	Jim Davis	Rich Eitel	Marcy Ellis
Wayne Everbach	Larry Gilbert	Joe Hatton	Lizzie Johnson
Miles Johnson	Jimmy Jones	Mike Kesselring	Donna Maloy
Devin Marriott	Lillian Marriott	Gary Pickens	Boone Rutter
Charity Rutter	Ian Rutter	Paul Rutter	Willow Rutter
Tristen Smith	Stan Starkey	Ann Strange	

TIE AND LIE - MONDAY, JANUARY 29
CASUAL PINT, MARYVILLE - 6:30



Yes, you can catch trout in the Smokies with an egg pattern. If you follow the newsletter, you've seen pictures of the rainbow trout eggs we get for our Trout in the Classroom program. This picture gives you a better idea of how small they really are, 3 - 5 centimeters. We will be tying both weighted and unweighted eggs at this month's get together. They are probably the easiest fly we've ever done. Come join us!



Hook: Egg hook size 16

Weight: 2.5 mm bead

Thread: 140 Danier in red or yellow

McFlyFoam: pink or red and yellow

Foam Dispenser: Ernie will provide

NEW MEMBERS

Joe Robinette

Welcome to the Little River Chapter of TU (LRCTU). Our Chapter was established years ago as a nonprofit volunteer organization committed to protecting and restoring cold water resources and watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. We hope to be able to offer you plenty of activities to join us in our mission. As a member, you will receive our monthly newsletter issued around the 15th of each month, as well as email notifications of any activities that may be happening during the month. Our meeting is the 4th Thursday of the month (with the exception of July, November, and December) held at the Bluetick Tavern in Maryville. Social hour starts at 6:00 with month's program starting at 7:00 and the Chapter's business meeting immediately following. Feel free to visit our website at lrctu.org, contact me at lrctu.newsletter@gmail.com or any of the Board Members listed on the website for information.

MEMBERS OUT THERE

Tim Hurst (left) and Harry Fetterman fishing Gatlinburg. Will Davis's bull trout out in Oregon.





"Sharing the fun of fishing turns strangers into friends for a few hours" -
Eugenie Clark

Joyce Frey
Newsletter Editor



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