

Editor: Dave Ezell (ezop@charter.net)

### **Next Meeting:**

**Where:** Bass Pro Store, Sevierville, Intersection of I-40 and Hwy 66. Upstairs in the meeting room located to your right when you exit the elevators.

**When:** 7:00 p.m., Thurs., July 23

**Program:** Jeff Loftin, a guide with experience all around the country and currently concentrating in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina will talk about fishing local streams including the South Holston. For more information on Jeff, go to



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

Jeff's site includes good information on equipment—from waders to tippets—with respect to durability and affordability. See story inside (Page 3) on shooting heads.

### **Free Casting Clinics**

Polish or just learn casting techniques for free at the Orvis Store in Pigeon Forge. Every Saturday in July and August, Kris Maurer or his staff will conduct a clinic that will teach the basics of fly casting or tips to improve your cast. The clinics are purposely held early, from 9:00—10:00 a.m. to avoid heavy traffic. Call the Orvis store at 865-774-4162 to reserve your spot!

### **Lynn Camp Prong Restocking**

**By Byron Begley**

On July 14, the Park Service stocked over 350 brook trout in Lynn Camp Prong in GSMNP. This will be the first of many stockings from now until October in the final phase of the largest brook trout restoration project in the Smokies.

The brook trout for this event came from Cosby Creek and are pure Southern Appalachian strain a lineage that moved here sometime during the Ice Age. Future stocking brood fish will come from other streams in the Park.

This was also a media event that was covered by the popular Heartland Series. The host of that show, Bill Landry, also a fly fisherman, was there and was recognized by many of the hikers who passed by. Park Service media also covered the event.

Workers were posted at pre-determined locations along the stream and fish were transported by ATV in specially designed coolers. The fish were released from oxygenated plastic bags at 200 to 300 yard intervals up the stream (see photos, Pg. 3).

At the end of the day, many of the lucky participants gathered to discuss this historical event. A writer from North Carolina commented that this was the largest brook trout restoration project anywhere. I may not have completely understood him or maybe it's true.

Lynn Camp Prong is over 8 miles long, it is a mid-elevation stream with easy access. The carrying capacity of the stream is 2,000 trout per mile. The goal is for the stream to support about 16,000 wild brook trout living there in three to five years.

*Note: LRCTU is a major contributor to the Park Service's efforts to restore Lynn Camp Prong to a native brook trout habitat.*

## Floating the Clinch

By Gary Verholek

On Saturday, June 27, fellow LRCTU member, Mike Stiehl, and I floated 7 miles of the Clinch in his ugly pink (faded red) canoe. While laughing their fins off the fish still must have been hungry, because we caught copious fish 12" to 15" plus I got one 17" and Mike got one larger (he says).

There are a couple of options to float the Clinch from public access points. One float, on the upper section, is about 4-5 miles while the section we did is 7-8 miles. Reportedly, the fishing is better on the longer leg, but either would have been fine for me on this my first trip.

We met at 7:00 a.m. and the shuttle driver took us to the put-in. We were underway around 8:00 a.m. and didn't get off the water until 4:00 p.m. Now 7 miles can be a bit tiring, especially with several stops at rock outcroppings and shoals to wade fish.

The Clinch is a couple of hundred yards wide with rock ledges, some that run across and some at various angles to the current. The fish would set up below and beside the ledges.

Wading the ledges can be hazardous because in a river as wide and deep as the Clinch, an errant step can float your hat, literally. Whether floating or stopped at some ledges, we caught fish after fish.

TVA opened one generator on Norris Dam (about 15 miles upstream) around 9:00 a.m., and the water caught up with us around 1pm. After the water rise, we could only fish from the canoe, and move at the speed of the current. We moved rather quickly, but the fish were still feeding, and we were still catching. We paddled the last ½ mile to clear some shallow ledges. Cramped from sitting in the canoe so long, and tired from paddling (not from casting), I still

hated to quit. Even with soreness, the memories of a good day fishing persist.

In drift fishing, a canoe or kayak can get cramped after 7-8 hours, my preference for comfort is a raft. There is more room and more stability, so less concern with your movements. Steering a raft may be more difficult, but that usually isn't a big concern on most fishing rivers like the Clinch. Actually, they move with the current more deliberately than a pointed craft, which has a tendency to out-race the current at the slightest coaxing.

No mater...I'm ready to go again. After a couple of beers at the nearest watering hole, Mike hinted he might ask me again. After all, salesman that I am, I let him catch more fish than I did. It wouldn't do for the guest to out-fish the host. That's my story...

*Thanks to Gary for submitting this great account of a good day fishing on the Clinch. Submit an account of one of your recent, or past, memorable trips to share here with other LRCTU members—ED*

Doug Moore with a Clinch River "Bow" submitted by Kris Maurer, Orvis Sevierville, from a recent, but different, trip on the Clinch.





## Shooting Head Fly Lines

By Jeff Loftin

Shooting head technology is something every fly angler should experiment with. It has many applications in our sport. I've used it for stripers on Toledo Bend and Sam Rayburn. I've also used it for Blues and Reds in the surf of the Gulf and Atlantic. Nothing defeats a headwind like a shooter. Here in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee I find the shooter to be a real advantage for smallies and stripers on the fly and occasionally trout in big water. It keeps my fly in the zone for much longer durations, as the result of longer casts, and I don't have to kill myself to achieve it.

A shooting head is a thirty foot or less fly line that is attached to a very slick running line of very small diameter. Shooting heads have a unique applications in daily fly fishing. Have you ever spent a day making long casts and stripping the fly all the way in only to pick up and false cast several times to achieve another 70 footer? If you have, you know how tiring that can be. Wanna know a way to do the same thing in only a pick up and presentation? Use a shooting head!

For those not wishing to do the double handed spey thing, the shooting head was employed as a way to make single handed rods perform in a like manner.

The further you cast, the more time your fly is in the strike zone during the retrieve. I think many anglers get frustrated with the work in fishing streamer type patterns in calmer water due to the effort it takes. These presentations can be super effective on Smallies and Stripers. So how do we do this?

Shooting heads come in a variety of line types from floating to concrete block sinkers. For smallmouth, I use a floater. For stripers, I use a floater or intermediate sinker. Additionally this running line is very easy to manipulate when retrieving the fly back or managing the line after the strike. The running line is attached to traditional fly line backing to fill the spool.

If you research how to use a shooting head, they will tell you to get the head out of the front eye of your rod with one to two feet of running line out as well. During the cast, stop the rod high and let the head do the work. A good haul on the forward stroke really makes it fly!

I use a nail knot to attach the shooting head to the running line. I do this because I usually strip some of the head in on the retrieve and I need a smooth transition from fly line to running line as it races out-bound through the eyes of the rod. Remember, it's all about keeping the fly in the water. Longer casts make for longer retrieves which all boils down to more time in the strike zone.

## Park Service personnel release brook trout into the Lynn Camp Prong July 14



The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a Non-Profit Volunteer Organization that is Committed to Protecting and Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and Around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park



**Thanks to all of you who  
worked on Troutfest.  
Great Job!**

And thanks for attending, supporting and donating to Troutfest. Together we have made a difference that we can all be proud of forever.

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Stop by or call about our monthly  
fishing seminars, schools and tying classes

## **AUGUST MEETING:**

**When:** 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 27, 2009

**Where:** Monte Vista Baptist Church, Maryville, TN.  
1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd  
Maryville, TN 37803-5505  
(lower level—enter from the parking lot).

**Program:** Fly tying tips. New and old patterns. The basics for novices and tricks for the pros.