

# Little River Chapter

Newsletter

JULY 2001

Editor Joe Hatton



[www.members.home.net/littlerivertu/July2001](http://www.members.home.net/littlerivertu/July2001)

## Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the **Fourth** Thursday, July, 26 at 7:00 pm. We are meeting at Monte Vista Baptist Church at 1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd. in Maryville. The church has an entrance on the opposite side of Hwy 129 between the BiLo and the Co-op Gas station

**Door prize.** Ovis Clearwater fly trying tool set

## Program

Month	Speaker	Subject
July	Bill Landry - The Heartland Series	Fishing stories and related tales
August	Byon, Begley and Walter Babb	Slide presenta- tion on their re- cent Beaverkill NY and Penn- sylvania trip

## Stream Work

**August 18 - 19** Quarterly Acid Deposition Sample

**September 6 - 8** Little River Large Stream Monitoring

**September 13 - 15** Cataloochee Creek Large Stream Monitoring

By: Ian Rutter

Fishing has been better this July than it has been at this time for the past several years. Abundant rainfall and mild temperatures have kept water cool and at a good level. Although it seems like we've gotten a lot of rain, it turns out that this is what a normal year should be like. In fact, July is historically the wettest month of the year in this part of the country.

I often notice that most fishermen pack it up and go home when it rains. While I certainly don't advocate waving a 8 1/2' lightning rod around during a lightning storm, I would encourage fishermen not to go home. First of all, fish don't mind getting wet. Also the sudden flush of water will often cool the water during the afternoon, energizing the fish. They will often begin to feed vigorously as increased flow begins to stir up the stream. Many fishermen talk about how the tailwaters begin to fish well when the water starts to come up. This is the same thing.

Fishermen are also usually turned off by a murky stream and fish half heartedly, if at all. True, trout will not rise as well in muddy water. That is because they are probably too busy feeding on nymphs and larger Creatures that fly fishermen often forget about like salamanders and sculpins. The best time to fish big nymphs and streamers is during muddy water conditions. (continued on page two)

July fishing picks (continue from page one ) Woolly buggers are among the best generic flies to fish in these times, but any streamer has a good shot at attracting fish. Stonefly imitations are also good producers.

One last thing to consider: if you fish big flies in murky conditions, do yourself a favor and use heavy tippet. Believe me, 2X is not too heavy. After all, visibility is at a minimum in the water. Also, streamers and big nymphs don't cast well with light tippet used for dry flies. But possibly the best reason to use heavy tippet is not to break off the big brown trout you might be lucky enough to hook. Remember, this is the best time to find one with his guard down, and you don't want to trust the fish of a lifetime to 5X tippet.

### *A New Place...*

By: Roy Hawk



We all have heard of them and a few of us have shared them with others. These are the places that we have heard of, perhaps for years, that we have wanted to fish. The stories of these places stir something in us, which causes us to remember. Maybe the place is full of large trout or a certain specie of trout. Maybe the place causes you to remember someone that has passed that fished its waters. Maybe it is a place that you read about and thought that it might just be waters that you should fish. No matter the reason we all have these places in us.

My visit to this new place began by chance, a trip to a town to visit friends. When I arrived early I found my friends still busy

with their schedules. This gave me time to think and to reflect and soon my mind drifted back to casting a fly. I remembered this new place from a past visit when there was no time to think and to reflect, or to fish. I had heard the stories; maybe you have too, of how good the fishing was, of how strong the trout are, of the clearness of the waters and of the beautiful environs that surround the trout. I figured that I had just enough time to fish these waters and to be back when my friends returned. Quickly I gathered my maps and my notes, assembled my gear and I was off.

When I reached the river I was not disappointed, I began to read the water, to look for the riffles, eddies and pools. I looked for other anglers too. Not so much to see where they were fishing but to learn where they were not. This sometimes yields secrets, untold, of places that are fished, of places that were and are still good, and sometimes not. This trip was different, it was not planned, it was spontaneous, as if to say, "...just fish". I assembled my rod, selected a fly and set about the mission of fishing this new place. I hit all the usual spots where trout live. I landed several nice trout from these spots, but soon my attention shifted across the river to a place not yet fished. I wondered how I would get there, how to cross this unfamiliar stretch of river. I carefully navigated the runs, scooted across the riffles, waded through the bog and tall grass; crossed lay downs and ducked under branches.

Having arrived, I took a moment to look around, to listen, to smell, and to notice the view. Of course it was different, I was looking back on where I had been. I was looking back on the trip that got me to where I was standing.

(continued on page three)

*A New Place (continued from two)*

I stood there just taking it all in, the view, the smells, the sounds. That's when I noticed the rises, those beautiful rings that tell us where the trout are feeding. There they were, just happening. With some regularity and rhythm, just behind the lay downs that formed the eddies along the bank.

Carefully I slipped into a position to where I could cast to those rising trout. I made my presentation, a little short. I cast again, this time the fly landed just above where I had seen the rises. I waited and wondered if my first cast had put the trout down. The fly drifted downstream without drag, and then it was gone. The trout had risen and taken my fly, ending all doubts, I lifted my fly rod and the struggle began. I enjoyed the usual run, as the reel sang its song. Then came the tugging, with headshakes and a leap that make fighting a trout a beautiful thing. It was a beautiful rainbow fighting with all its might. All too soon the struggle subsided and the trout, as if to say, "I'm done", slowly began to give line to the reel

When I got it to shore I carefully removed the fly and quickly laid the rainbow next to my rod. When I took the picture I made a memory that cemented this fish, this trip and this new place in my mind forever. I carefully released the trout back to its waters, back to where it lived, to feed again and to live for another day.

Remember the places that you have fished and the places that you want to fish. Remember the memories that these create. Remember the trout you have landed and the ones that you have not. Tell someone about them, or better yet call them up, set a date, and take them. It could become a place to remember for you both...

**Harvey Stonefly nymph**

By: Water Babb

The Harvey Stonefly nymph was created by George Harvey in the 1930's. When Joe Humphrey was here in May, We fished together on the Tellico River and he was fishing two of the flies. What impressed me the most about this fly was it's simplicity. I've been field testing it for the last two months and it catches fish at least as well as anything else has. I've caught a couple of 17" Brown in the New York's Willowemoc Creek and an 18" Brown on Bald River, so it has Big fish catching capabilities. Plus it's easy and fast to tie and it's virtually indestructible. I fished the same flies for two days in New York and they never shredded or came a part.

**Hook:** 2X long Nymph hooks Size 8 to 16  
**Thread:** Camel Brown Uni-thread 6/0 or 8/0  
**Ribbing:** 32 gauge brass beading wire (available at Craft Shop. Much stronger than gold wire. I use it to rib most of my nymphs)  
**Shellback:** 3 strands dark brown fine chenille for 8's and 10's. 3 strands dark brown wool for smaller flies.  
**Body:** Golden Stone or Creamy Yellow Awesome Possum  
**Tail and Legs:** Brown partridge or brown speckled hen saddles. Tie in 10 or 12 Fibers for tail. (continue on back page)





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**Harvey Stonefly nymph** (continued from page three ) Dub the middle section of hook with scrap dubbing, Saturate with head cement and warp dubbing with lead wire. Flatten with a pair of smooth jawed needle nose pliers. Tie down with thread to keep it from turning. Tie in shellback material at rear of hook. Tie in ribbing wire. Dub a far body to front of lead wire. Pull Shell back material over body and tie off at front of body Spiral ribbing in evenly spaced turns over shellback and body and tie off. Tie in a small bunch of partridge fibers on either side of hook slanting backward. Whip finish and fly is complete. I hope everyone finds this fly as effective as I have.

Walter Babb

## Little River Outfitters

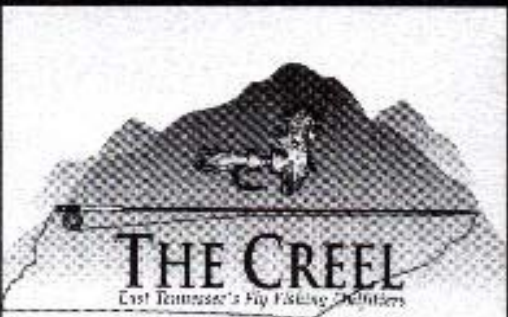


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