

Little River Chapter Newsletter

Editor
Joe Hatton



July 2006
www.lrcctu.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the fourth Thursday July the 27th, 7:00 P.M. This meeting will be upstairs in the seminar room of the **Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World Hwy 66 Kodak Tn.**

Program

This month we are pleased to have Mike Adams of Mike Adams Flyfishing Outfitter. He also works as a professional guide for Mahoney's outdoors in Johnson City, Tn. His presentation will be on his home waters, the South Holston and Watauga tailwaters. Please check out his website. ww.w.adamsflyfishing.com

Stream Work

August 8-11 Electrofishing Gear Comparison Study

September 9 Large Stream Sample - Little River (Metcalf Bottoms). This is on a Saturday. It was scheduled so that members of our chapter have a chance to participate in stream Sampling that normally would be done during the week.

September 16-17 Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample

September 20-21 Large Stream Sample - Straight Fork

Fishing Report

I thought the Little River looked a little higher when I drove up to the park this morning to do my thing. I drove up to the Glory Hole on the Middle Prong. The temperature was a warm 68.2 degrees. I talked to a young guy from Louisiana and asked how he was doing. He said his dad caught a nice smallmouth bass. You know what, I've caught some nice smallmouth bass in the Glory Hole. I don't know how the hole got it's name. I do remember that back in the late 70's Bobby Shultz's uncle caught a 29" brown out of that hole. Also, Tim Doyle was driving up the Middle Prong road and saw Jack Gregory peering into the water. Tim parked and walked up. Jack showed Tim a big brown trout that he had been watching. Jack talked Tim into getting his rod out and giving it a try. After several casts the big brown trout took Tim's fly. During the fight, Tim and Jack had to run downstream a couple of hundred yards before the trout gave up. They measured, revived and released the beautiful fish. He was 25" long. That was around five years ago. But I still don't know how the Glory Hole got it's name.

When I drove to the "Y" and stopped at the gauge to get some readings it was obvious that the East Prong was dumping some extra water into the system. The flow gauge read 2.0 feet which is excellent for this time of year. The water temperature there was 68.8 degrees.

If you go fishing today I would fish ►

the East Prong near or above Elkmont where the water is cooler. If you fish the Middle Prong go up high on the gravel road or hike up to Lynn Camp. I like to fish above the cascade.

Try attractor flies like a Parachute Adams, Elk Caddis or Stimulator. Have you noticed that I like these flies? Ant or Beetle patterns will work too. Fish a Green Weenie or drop one off the back of your dry fly. It needs to be 18" back to be legal.

It looks like we are not going to get some rain for a few days and it's going to be hot. Expect highs in the 90's and lows in the high 60's to low 70's down here in the valley. It's going to be much cooler the higher up you go into the mountains.

I just got reports from the weather stations in the Smokies. Newfound gap got a trace of rain last night and the low temperature was 49 degrees. Sugarland Center got almost 1/2" of rain and the low was 68 degrees. Mount Leconte got a trace of precipitation and the low was 52. We got .07" of rain here in the shop. My guess is that Elkmont or Clingman's Dome area got more rain than any other weather station. There isn't a weather station at either of those locations but the rise in Little River's East Prong came from somewhere.

Have a great day and thanks for reading this report. Also, thank you for supporting us here at the shop.

Byron Begley
July 16, 2006

Cranberry River

Over the fourth of July I had a few days off and made a quick trip to the Cranberry river in West Virginia. I did not start out going to fish the Cranberry but just ended up there. What I found was a nice section of stream with a good population of Brown and Rainbow. I ended up fishing the catch and release section down from the Woodbine Picnic Area. The Trout were mostly in the 9 to 12 inch range. After

some more reading, the Dogwood fork and south fork of the Cranberry is the area I hope to go back and fish. The Dogwood is a Flyfishing only stream and there is a catch and release section of the Cranberry in this area. This is a back county area and can be accessed by foot or Mountain bike only. Make sure to check out the rules with the Gauley Ranger District, 932 North Fork Cherry Road, Richwood, WV 26261, (304) 846-2695. Mountain bikes are not allowed in all areas. There are seven three-sided Adirondak shelters located along the Cranberry River and they are available on a first come, first served basis. They look like a great base camp.



The Cranberry River is stocked with Rainbows, Browns, Goldens, and Brook trout. Chances for a grand slam should be good. I have posted a link on the Newsletter website with a detailed map of the area, so make sure to check it out. If you get there before I do, let me know the details. Now all I have to do is figure out how to build a kart and attach it to my bike to carry all my gear.

Joe

Brookies Benefit from Continued Success of TROUTFEST

BY: Gary Verholek

It is a wonder indeed what a small handful of conservation-minded fishermen can do for the only trout native to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). ►

Since our founding in 1992, LRCTU members have been donating their time and energies to assist in restoration of Southern Appalachian Brook trout. Our latest efforts, an arts & crafts festival called TROUTFEST, has been particularly successful and rewarding.

The first TroutFest in June 2004 resulted in a LRCTU donation of \$7,621. The funds were added to the GSMNP Brook trout donation account to leverage additional monies from bigger benefactors. These monies supported Brookie restoration projects in the GSMNP, including:

- ❑ Remove hybrid Brook trout Indian Flats Prong.
- ❑ Collect Brookies from upper Lynn Camp Prong and transplant them to Indian Flats Prong.
- ❑ Assess stocking success in Sam's Creek and Bear Creek.
- ❑ Assess Little Cataloochee Creek for possible restoration.

Through our 2nd annual Trout Fest in June 2005, LRCTU donated \$12,532 for a seasonal fisheries technician whose duties included:

- ❑ More restoration on Indian Flats Prong
- ❑ More evaluations of Sam's Creek in TN and Bear Creek in NC.

Our most recent TROUTFEST this June enabled LRCTU to donate another \$12,000 for more work by a seasonal fisheries technician to:

- ❑ Evaluate removal non-native brook trout from Indian Flats Prong.
- ❑ Transplant of 100-200 southern Appalachian brook trout into each of Indian Flats Prong, Bear Creek, and Sams Creek.
- ❑ Setup work for the restoration of 6.5 miles of Lynn Camp Prong.
- ❑ Collect brook trout fin clips from previously restored Leconte Creek for a

strain evaluation.

TROUTFEST has produced a great deal of money, more than \$32,000, and these funds have been well leveraged by the Fisheries Department. The diminutive Southern Appalachian Brook trout means a lot to the fragile ecosystem of the Park, and, for 14 years, LRCTU has spearheaded a valiant effort by a small army of citizen scientists – conservationists and fishermen all. Well done, my friends, well done.

Fly of the Month

Dave Hopper

Hook: TMC 5263, 3X long dry fly hook, sizes 10 - 8

Thread: Tan, 6/0

Tail: Red deer or elk, with a loop of pale yellow or tan yarn over it

Body hackle: Brown or ginger, open palmer and clipped short

Body: Pale yellow or tan wool yarn (also tie a light green variant for early hoppers)

Underwing: Red squirrel tail or calf tail, (also tie a yellow under wing)

Wing: Mottled turkey wing section, coated with Softex or Flexament

Legs: Thin section of mottled turkey quill or pheasant tail, knotted to form leg joint

Head: Spun natural elk, clipped flat on bottom, shape head on top



The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit volunteer organization that is committed to Protecting & Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

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