

Little River Chapter Newsletter

Editor
Joe Hatton



July 2007
www.lrctu.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the fourth Thursday July the 26th, 7:00 P.M. This meeting will be upstairs in the far right corner seminar room of the

**Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World
Hwy 66 Kodak Tn.**

Program

Bob Hodge the Knoxville News-Sentinel Outdoors Editor will be our guest speaker. Bob was voted the Tennessee Sports Writers Association 2004 Best Outdoor Writer. I'm sure he will come with plenty of stories that will entertain all.

Stream work

July 21 - 22 # Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample

August 13 - 15 Bunches & Flat Creek Evaluation
High elevation brook trout electrofishing

August 21 - 23 Slickrock Creek Evaluation
Coop. sampling project with TN and NC

September 15-16 # Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample

Fishing Report

I have been fishing in the Smokies on a regular basis for over twenty six years. I have lived in Townsend for fifteen years. I have never during all that time seen the water in the streams as low as it is now. At this writing we are over twelve inches of rainfall behind normal for the year at the Knoxville Airport.

The water flow has been lower. You can talk to old timers and find that out easy enough. Even the newtimers like Walter Babb and Jack Gregory have probably seen this before but not this early in the year. Sorry Walter, even though you have the experience you need many more years to become an oldtimer.

I need to call Steve Moore and see what he thinks. He's been fishing in the Smokies since he was a kid. I just called him. Steve said this is the driest year on record in the Park since they started keeping records 118 years ago. He has never seen the streams this low at this time of year. The rainfall in the Park is down 14" from normal year to date. He said "I'm stepping on rocks that have never been out of the water". Steve reminded me of the drought during the time period of 1998 through 2002. Trout died and the population declined during that time but it bounced back quickly.

Until now, the fishing has been good this year in the Park despite the low water. It has also been cooler than normal which helps.

What the future brings, well your guess is as good as mine. I hope it rains often and for long periods of time without flooding to get us closer to normal before the "really" hot weather arrives.

This brings up a good question. Should we be fishing in the Park or just leave the trout alone. We know they are having a hard enough time as it is. Why put more stress on the fish when we can always find trout, warmwater species or even saltwater fish somewhere else. I think I'll call some of my friends who own ponds and start fishing for bluegill and bass until we get some rain. Hopefully there is water in those ponds.

Our lakes are very low but so far the tailwaters for the most part are fishing well from what I've heard. Again, the lakes need to be replenished so generation of power will send the cold water gushing into the tailwaters below. Our member Bill Bolinger fished the Caney Fork this week and the fishing was excellent. He and Mike Bates fished on the South Holston this week and did real well.

A bunch of our members are leaving for Yellowstone right now. It sounds like they are hitting it perfect. Runoff was early this year and the fishing should be excellent. Ross is going to be out there for a month. Lucky guy! Kris and Doug are going to fish with him or a few days. Lucky guys though not as lucky as Ross. We will expect a TU program from those guys later this year. Have a good month and if you have any extra rain, please send it our way.

Byron Begley

Didymo

According to the TWRA website we have four Tailwaters in East Tennessee that have Didymo invasive algae. Watauga, South Holston, Clinch River and the Holston River below Cherokee Dam. As fishermen we all

have a responsibility to prevent its spread to other waters. In an article that I recently read in Fly Fish America, listed seven things we can do to prevent spreading of the Didymo algae.

1. Find out what invasive algae inhabit the water you fish.
2. Remove all dirt, plants and other materials from your gear or boat, and alternating their use between drying.
3. Thoroughly rinse your gear and boat with clean water.
4. Thoroughly dry your gear.
5. Consider keeping two pairs of wading boots, and alternating their use between drying.
6. Never transport plants, animals, or water from one body of water to another.
7. Never dispose of bait fish or fish parts in any body of water.

The last thing I would like to see is Didymo in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. Guides need to take extra precautions because they are more likely to fish in multiple watersheds in the same week. This may require having extra sets of wading gear to give time for the infected gear to dry before taking them to uninfected waters. But it is up to all of us to stop the spread of Didymo invasive algae. You can read more and see pictures of the algae on the TWRA web-page. <http://www.twra4streams.org/didymo.html> The poster on how to clean your gear can also be seen on the web-page. http://www.twra4streams.org/didymo_sign_revised_2.pdf

TWRA maps

Generalized Stocked Trout maps are another great resource when you are trying to find a place to fish in the middle of the summer heat. Please go to the website

<http://www.state.tn.us/twra/gis/troutmap/troutindex.html>

Troutfest

Our chapter put forward another great effort making the 2007 Troutfest the most successful so far. On Monday July 16 we will be handing a check to the Park Superintendent for \$13,846.95 making a grand total of \$46,000.00 given by our chapter for Brooktrout restoration projects in the GSMNP. The chapter will also be donating \$2,000.00 to the Fisheries Scholarship Fund. It helps a local young adult to work with Matt and Steve over the summer to see if they are interested in going into the Fishery Biologist field. But all this would not be possible if not for the effort put forward by all the Chapter members that help out each year. I would like to thank Tom Eustis for working with the Rocky Branch Community club and Music Row, the music was a big improvement this year. Dan Calhoun and John Skinner for all their work helping me to getting the festival going. Joe Teffteller and Jack Gregory for their hard work on the banquet. Rufus King, Mike Shiehl, Terri Becker and Linda Head for taking charge of the Auction. Ron Becker, Steve Best, Roy Hawk, Debbie Teffteller, Jeff Hall, Donna Gregory, Sam Wood, Steve Head, Becky Hatton, Allysun Hatton, Bill Bolinger, Sheila Bolinger, Ross Shaver, Mike Shaver, Rhea Shaver, Dan Holloway, Rose Shiehl, Daniel Freeman, Pat Jenkins, Charity Rutter, John Garrison, Paula Begley, Jim Wiley, Charlie Downs, Doug Pape, Russel and Lisa Titen and finally Gary Verholek for

the hard work he does on Advertising each year. If I left someone out please forgive me. But do say a big thanks to all you see that have contributed their time and efforts to the festival.

Fly of the Month

Yellow sally

Hook: TMC 5263 - 3x1 - size 14

Thread: Yellow 6/0 UNI

Tail: Yellow Goose Biot, treated

Aft hackle: Speckled Badger – Whiting

Body: Pale yellow – fine dry fly dub

Fore hackle: Speckled Badger – Whiting

Note: Small stream classic fore & aft hackle pattern. Isoperla genre imitator dry



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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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