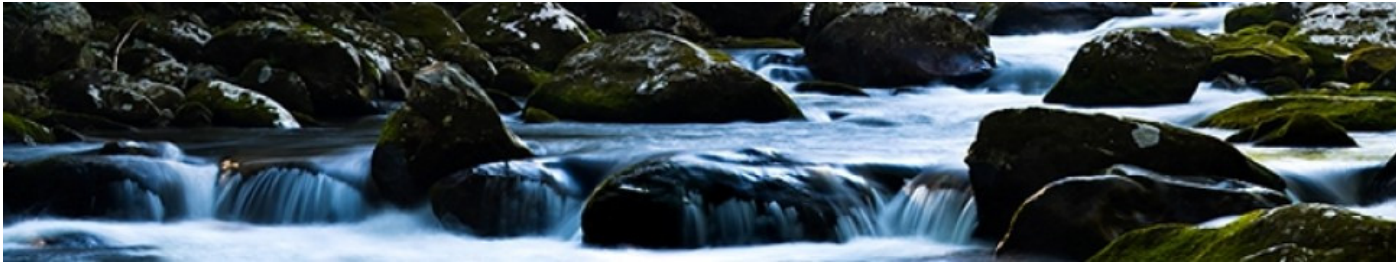


# Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

JULY 2013 Newsletter



## President's Corner

Mike Bryant ([mjbryant1954@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbryant1954@hotmail.com))

Obviously the rain continues to be a factor in fishing this year. I have had to work harder to find fishable water in the Park. Even the hit-or-miss thunderstorms have me guessing. A couple of weeks ago, I ended up with some free time and decided to head up to the Middle Prong above Tremont for a couple of hours of late afternoon fishing. The sun was out at our home in Townsend with no signs of storms or local showers. When I turned onto Tremont Road paralleling the Middle Prong I noticed that the water had that chalky white color caused by rain runoff from the gravel road. By the time I reached the Tremont Institute it was obvious that it had poured only minutes earlier. I had to drive up almost to the Lynn Camp trailhead parking lot before the water had its normal color.

My son, Kiel stayed with us for a couple of days over the Fourth of July weekend. Rain and other family matters kept us from fishing together during his visit. But we had the opportunity to reminisce about our fishing trips on the Nantahala when he was between 10 – 13 years old. I still have great memories of those trips. These days I'm helping my 2-1/2 year old granddaughter catch bluegill and little bass on her Barbie fishing rod. When fishing off our dock a couple of weeks ago we were surprised when a rather large bullfrog attacked her red & white bobber. She may be too young to remember it, but I won't forget. I hope to continue to have great experiences with our kids and grandkids on the water.



Many thanks to Josh Pfeiffer (<http://frontieranglerstn.com/>) for a great fly tying demonstration at last month's meeting. Josh is an excellent guide and knowledgeable fly tier. The smallmouth patterns he tied and the techniques he demonstrated were really cool. We used our video camera / projector system for the first time and by most



accounts it worked well. We will continue to work on improving this tool. I'd like to use the system for possible Chapter fly tying classes this coming winter. Hopefully more to come on this educational event in the future.

If you haven't read it yet, check out the great article on GSMNP's Steve Moore in TU's Summer 2013 *Trout* magazine. Chris Camuto wrote a great article on Steve's career, and his passion for the Park and brook trout restoration. Chris outlines the incredible volunteer efforts from members of the Little River, Clinch and Great Smoky Mountain Chapters, and the strong relationship that has developed between the Park Service and members of our local chapters over the last several decades. We owe a debt of gratitude to Steve, Matt and other Park Service personnel. Many thanks to all the TU members who have given time as well.

#### Smokemont Fishing Trip

We are planning a LRCTU Chapter Fishing Trip to Smokemont in August. Group Campsite #G1 has been reserved for Friday night (August 9) and Saturday night (August 10). There are many great streams to fish over in this area including Oconaluftee, Bradley Creek, Straight Fork, and Raven Fork just to name a few. This is a great opportunity to fish as well as spend some time with fellow Chapter members. We'll likely have a group cookout on Saturday night. The cost to camp in the group campsite is cheap. Even if you cannot camp overnight, consider coming over for a day trip. Just let us know your plans. See Trip Coordinator Mike McKinsey's article below.

#### Conservation

All the rain this year has definitely slowed down conservation efforts in the Park. The multi-site sampling of brook trout on Lynn Camp Prong had to be delayed due to high water. I, along with 6-7 other TU volunteers helped the Park Service one day in June when the water wasn't too high. But we only sampled one site. Steve Moore wants to make sure they collect good data, and is concerned that high water may compromise their ability to truly assess brook trout populations. We'll let you know when dates have been rescheduled. As announced in last month's newsletter, Lynn Camp Prong will continue to be closed until further notice. As anxious as we all are to resume fishing on this beautiful little stream, we will have to patient a little longer.

#### July Chapter Meeting

**How about a free dinner??** Our July Chapter Meeting (Thursday, July 25) will be outdoors at River Johns Outfitters. Under the capable hands of Mike McKinsey, we will be grilling some great food. There's the opportunity to fish, meet fellow members, learn a thing or two about fishing in the Little River. Dave Ezell is coordinating opportunities to float and fish the Little River before the cookout. See Dave's article. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. A map has been included in this newsletter.

#### Clinch River Cleanup – Saturday, July 20

Looking for another opportunity to give back? Consider helping at the first-ever Big Clinch River Cleanup on July 20. Activities start at 8 a.m. with a breakfast and briefing for all participants at the Museum of Appalachia, 2819 Andersonville Highway, Norris. The cleanup will wrap up about noon. Check out the attached article for more details.

I hope you can join us at the July meeting at River John's. Have a safe summer!

Thanks,  
Mike

### **Smokemont Overnight Camp/Fish Outing**

Want to go Fishing? We have scheduled our second fishing trip of the year for Friday and Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at Smokemont Campground. This area of the GSMNP offers some fine fishing opportunities including the Oconaluftee, Bradley Fork, Ravens Fork, Collins Creek

and others. I am looking forward to this and am sure it will be a great time. There are several chapter members who know the streams in this area of the park very well. I hope you can join us.

We have reserved site G01 which is a group site for Friday and Saturday night. The site will accommodate up to 20 campers. The cost to you will be minimal (less than \$9) depending on how many people sign up. This site is a tent only site; however, you can make your own reservations if you wish to bring your camper.

If you are unable to stay you are still welcome to come over and fish with us. We plan on having a group dinner on Saturday evening. More details to come. Several of you have already signed up and I will be in contact with you soon. If you would like to join us please let me know at phone 865-806-0761 or email at [missionflyrod@charter.net](mailto:missionflyrod@charter.net)

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Mike McKinsey

## **RIVER JOHNS TO HOST JULY MEETING**

Bring your sticks and favorite flies or poppers and join us at the July meeting at River Johns <http://www.riverjohns.com/> just outside Maryville. Joe Hatton is posting a link to a map on the [www.lrcctu.org](http://www.lrcctu.org) chapter web site newsletter for directions on how to get there. A great place for fishing and a free dinner – what's not to like! Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. So mark your calendars **for July 25** for a great opportunity to have a great meal, meet fellow Chapter members, fish and relax on a great summer evening.

**Float to John's:** Signed up for the float to River John's yet? What a great opportunity to float some excellent smallmouth water Bring your kayaks, canoes, driftboats, washtubs, or flotilla and fish/float your way to River Johns on the Little River for the July meeting. Pack those Pfeiffer small mouth patterns learned at the June meeting and try them out. Allow about 4 hours (with fishing) to make the trip from Hitch Road put in (just above the water plant) down to John's. Contact me (Dave Ezell, 1116 Hitch Rd., Maryville, TN 37804) at 865-567-1479 or [ezop@charter.net](mailto:ezop@charter.net) for more information and to arrange transportation. River Johns also rents kayaks and canoes that can be used for the trip.

## **BIG CLINCH RIVER CLEANUP - Saturday, July 20**

The first-ever Big Clinch River Cleanup starts at 8 a.m. with a breakfast and briefing for all participants at the Museum of Appalachia, 2819 Andersonville Highway, Norris. The cleanup will wrap up about noon.

Very important: Please register in advance, so we'll be sure to have enough breakfast and so we can pre-plan our attack on debris in the river. To sign up, visit <http://crctu.org/> and click on the link to register for the event, fill out the form and submit it.

For more information, contact Buzz Buffington at [buzzflo@bellsouth.net](mailto:buzzflo@bellsouth.net) or ( 865) 463-7167. In case of severe weather, the cleanup will be postponed until July 27.

Everyone who enjoys the river, from anglers to kayakers to wildlife watchers, is invited to help remove litter from the Clinch and its banks. The communitywide cleanup is an expansion of annual pickups run for many years by our chapter. This year we will focus on the section between

the Peach Orchard boat ramp and the River Road boat ramp (Miller's Island) -- but remember, everyone is to gather at the museum first to get breakfast and assignments

## Update on Work in the Smoky Mountains

We have had a large amount of on-stream electro-shock sampling and other activities such as genetic studies scheduled for this summer. However, the high rain fall we have had all year, has really impacted that work.

The problems are two fold. First, we are having rain fall more often. Second, due to the heavy ground saturation, the stream levels are not dropping following the rain as quickly as most years. The high water levels make the electro-shocking less efficient and therefore inaccurate, and sometimes downright unsafe.

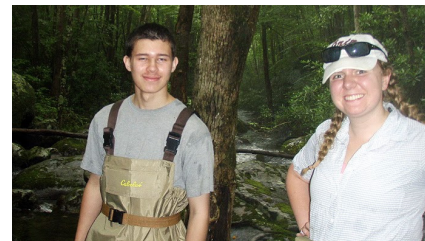
The Lynn Camp Prong evaluation originally scheduled for June 17 – 19 was rescheduled to the middle of the following week. However, when we tried sampling the first site on June 26 the water was high and the results were not consistent with accurate samples.



Our first pass sample should have yielded much higher numbers than the second pass, but the results of both were equal. So the rest of the sampling of Lynn Camp is to be re-scheduled when the stream flows subside. High water also resulted in stopping the large stream sample of the East Prong of Little River near Elkmont on June 24. We moved to Marks Creek, a small tributary of Lynn Camp Prong. It was small enough that an accurate sample was possible. Few fish were found, which is not surprising because no effort was

made to move fish back in after the last treatment to remove rainbow trout.

The good news is that no rainbow trout were found on Marks or on the one sample site of Lynn Camp Prong. On Lynn Camp, some healthy brook trout up to about 9 inches were found. All the volunteers who signed up, then re-scheduled deserve a big thank you. Once we get better conditions, we will send out a new schedule. If we have the same support once again, we should be able to get the work done.



Thanks again everybody!  
Charlie Chmielewski

If you want to help with any of the work shown below, please contact Charlie Chmielewski (charlieflyfish@gmail.com or 865-661-7325).

**The Little River Chapter Trout Unlimited Newsletter is produced for current members. Please ensure that you have a viable email address on file with your membership information at Trout Unlimited. You can add an email**

address or update your current email at [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) or call 1-800-834-2419.

**Note:** Anyone with news, such as an event or account of a fishing trip, etc., please send it along to newsletter editor, Dave Ezell [ezop@charter.net](mailto:ezop@charter.net)

Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website [www.lrctu.org](http://www.lrctu.org)