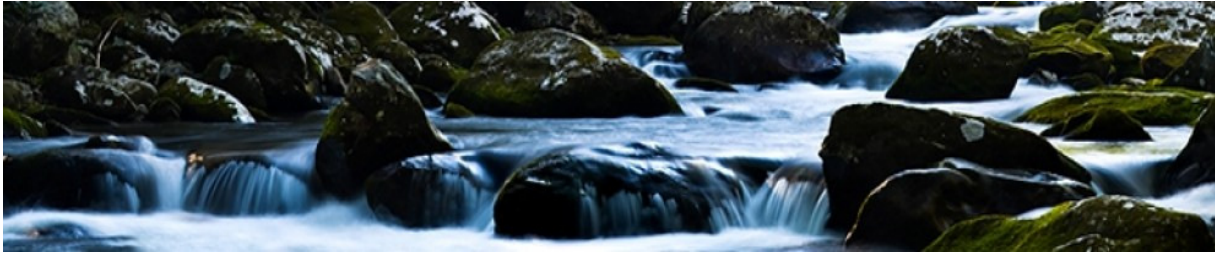


Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

July 2014 Newsletter



President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

I hope everyone has had a great summer so far. It's been both a busy and productive season for Jan and I, though we were both worn out after a couple of consecutive weeks of visitors. Our seven year old grandson and three year old granddaughter have a seemingly endless bundle of energy. But we had a great time with them, taking them into the Park and fishing as well. After the kids and grandkids left, our best friends from Arizona came to stay with us. We fished up in the Park and both friends were able to catch wild rainbows despite the low water conditions. Despite the typical summer slowdown, fishing continues to be pretty good for me personally. Check out the article below on summer fishing in the Park.

The Lynn Camp brook trout evaluation was completed in June. Overall, there is good news on the health of the brook trout population. I was able to help out one day and was happy to see brookies taking hold in the stream. I forgot how pretty this small stream is and look forward to the day we can fish there again. Charlie Chmielewski has an article below with the details.



Thanks to Bill McConkey for coming up from McMinn County to present at our June Meeting. Bill is active in bringing trout wildlife management to the classroom and he provided us with aquatic insect behavior information as well as thought for how we might do a better job at getting classroom kids involved in preserving our waters for its inhabitants.

I was also able to help out at Trout Camp this past June. The folks who organize and lead this program do an outstanding job. The kids were energetic and eager to learn. This is a great youth educational program that will definitely pay dividends in forming our conservation leaders of tomorrow. More details can be found in Charlie's article below.

One Final Comment: About three weeks ago, I was fishing the Little River above the Elkmont Campground. When I started walking up the trail, I saw a truck pulling into the lot with three gentlemen who obviously planned to fish there as well. So I walked up the trail a good mile or so before wading into the stream, assuming the others might want to fish the lower section. After fishing for about an hour or so, I finally figured out what the rainbows were willing to eat and I started to have many successful hook-ups. At one point I happened to glance up on the trail and noticed the three others watching as I hooked a couple of nice trout. I went back to fishing without a second thought, happy at my success. Unfortunately, five minutes later I looked upstream and saw two of the gentlemen fishing literally only 75 feet upstream of me. With 800 miles of trout streams in the Park, you would think they would have had the courtesy of walking up farther and given a fellow fisherman his space.

There have been times when I have waded into a stream only to then see someone already fishing there. When this happens, I reel up and get out of the stream so they can continue to fish. I think I recognized one of the three and knew that he should have known better. Fortunately, most of us have enough common respect and courtesy to spread out. We live in a great part of the world, and there are plenty of great streams to fish, so consider your fellow angler before dropping down into a stream. Just something to think about.

I hope you'll plan to come to the July meeting – free dinner, casting lessons, fishing opportunities. Doesn't get much better than that!!!

- Mike

July Meeting at River John's

How about a free dinner?? Our July Chapter Meeting (Thursday, July 24) will be outdoors at River Johns Outfitters again this year <http://www.riverjohns.com/map.htm> . Under the capable hands of Outdoor Chef Extraordinaire 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. There will be casting lessons given by Ross Schweinforth, a IFFF Certified Casting Instructor. Class size is limited to six, so make sure to reserve a spot.

We are very pleased to have Ross teach this class. He has the background and top-shelf credentials to provide excellent instruction. He is a certified Casting Instructor with the International Fly Fishing Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF), the premier organization

dedicated to excellence in fly-casting instruction through rigorous examination, continuing education, and strict standards. Ross has been actively involved with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) and serves as the PHWFF Program Lead for SE Tennessee and-NW Georgia.

After a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps and a tour of duty in Vietnam, Ross settled with his young bride, and the two have remained together in the southeast. His 34 year career encompassed fisheries biology, aquatic toxicology, environmental engineering, and regulatory compliance management. Retirement has allowed Ross to travel, fish, tie flies, build rods and generally be engaged in anything fly-fishing.

We are going to offer the casting class from 4-6PM at the picnic area. If there is enough interest we will have a second class. If you are interested in fly-casting instruction please Email Chuck James at Chuck3185@gmail.com to reserve your space. **I will need to set the schedule no later than Wednesday, July 16, 2014.**

If you are going to take the class Ross is suggesting that you bring an 8 ½ - 9ft rod with X0 or X1 leader. He will supply the ribbons, no hooks needed.

Regardless of your fly-casting ability, Ross will be able to help you become a better fly-caster.

Chuck James - Program Chair



Float and Fish Your Way Down Little River to July Meeting:

Anyone interested in a float/fish trip from behind Dave Ezell's house to the July meeting at River John's should contact me, Dave, by Monday, July 21. Weather permitting, we'll put in off of Hitch Road, just above the Hwy. 411 water plant, and see if we can straighten the kinks in our tippet on some smallies, red eye, carp or whatever's biting. We'll drop boats here (1116 Hitch Rd., Maryville, TN 37804), ferry autos to John's and come back here for the launch. Allocate an afternoon for this expedition and meet here, at 1:00 p.m. Contact me at 865-567-1479 or ezop@charter.net for more information and to arrange transportation. River Johns also rents kayaks and canoes that can be used for the trip.

Smokemont Fishing Trip

The next group fishing trip is scheduled for Smokemont Campgrounds - September 19 and 20. For all you football fans, that is an open date for UT.

The basic plan is for arrival on Friday the 19th. Site check-in starts at noon; only tents are allowed in the group camp areas. We have reserved group site Go2 on loop D. space has been reserved for twenty. Those who wish to camp in a camper need to reserve a separate site. You can do that through Recreation.gov.

Once you are set-up then the only thing left is fishing, eating and sitting around the fire, talking. There are a lot of places to fish from Smokemont but remember if you go out of the park you need a NC fishing license, in the park your TN license is good. Meals are on your own. Check out will be at 11:00 am on Sunday.

- Ernie Frey
ernest.frey@comcast.net

Summer Fishing in the Smokies

Three weeks ago I had a good learning experience how water temperatures, color and level make for happy trout. With this year's relatively dry summer, water levels on the Middle Prong of the Little River have been low. The bigger rainbows that only a month earlier were more than willing to eat during the day were no longer to be seen in their normal feeding lies. Water temperatures were reaching 69 degrees in the afternoon. So fishing slowed down as expected. I generally fished nymphs, but most of what I caught were the smaller fish.

On a Tuesday, I noted in my log the above conditions with little to show for it. Wednesday night brought an inch of much needed and welcomed rain. So Thursday, I went back to same spot I had fished on Tuesday. What a difference a little rain can make. The water levels were up some, but the water temperature had dropped to 65 degrees and had a little color to it. In two hours I caught a 10", (3) 9" and at least a half dozen 7" rainbows. I lost at least another six fish. All-in-all, the bigger trout were happy which provided a couple of good hours of fishing. Finally I went back two days later on Saturday. The water was back to being warm (69 degrees), low and clear. And not surprisingly, the fishing slowed down again. A good reminder that when fishing in the normally slower months, try to take advantage of those windows of opportunities that Mother Nature throws our way every so often.

– Mike Bryant

Lynn Camp Prong Brook Trout Restoration

From Monday June 23 through Thursday June 26, the Park Service conducted an electro-shock evaluation of five different sites on Lynn Camp Prong. The sites are 100 meters long, or close to 330 feet.

Matt Kulp, the Park Service Supervising Fisheries Biologist reported the following results: "Overall, a great week on Lynn Camp. Although we did get the one rainbow at site 18, we had excellent numbers of brook trout in most all sites. Lower 1/2 mile not as good as upper 7 miles due to poor reproduction (i.e. lower amount of good spawning habitat). This area should pick up over time as future year classes recruit to these areas. Overall, the breakdown of what we collected looks like this:

Site 5 - 30 fish (480 per mile)
Site 11 - 63 fish (1,008 per mile)
Site 18 - 145 fish (2,320 per mile)
Site 33 - 133 fish (2,128 per mile)
Site 37 - 160 fish (2,560 per mile)"



These surveys required a crew of nine in the stream, not counting anyone on shore measuring and counting fish or taking stream size and flow measurements. Thanks to a great response, including TU members from three different Chapters and some non-TU members, we had six or more volunteers helping each of those days. Our most experienced volunteer was Steve Moore, who is retired but still knows everything about trout streams. Our youngest helpers were Boone and Willow Rutter. Marty Antoniono probably traveled the farthest to join us again this year. Marty lives in Denver, North Carolina. We could not have done the work without these and the other dozen or more volunteers who gave their time to this effort.

Matt is planning some additional evaluations of the nearby sites where the rainbow trout was found. These will be quick shock surveys rather than the three pass evaluations with all the fish

measurements we completed in June. As soon as a schedule for these surveys is passed on, Charlie Chmielewski will send out a request for volunteers.

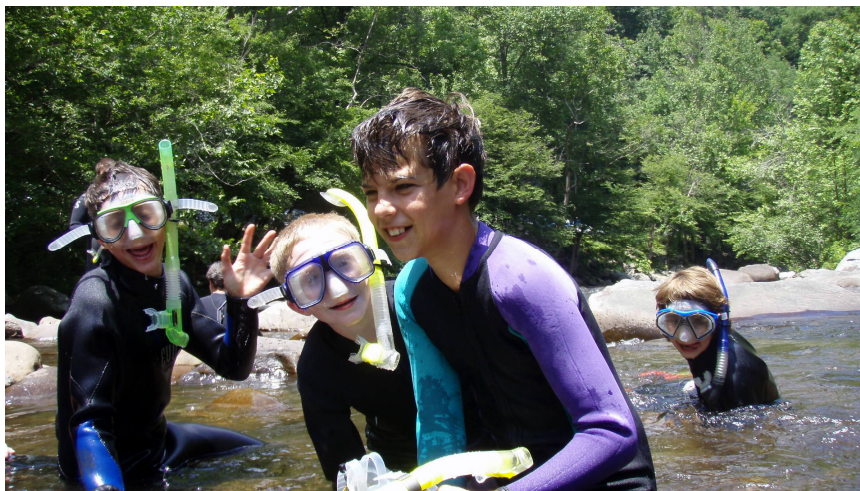
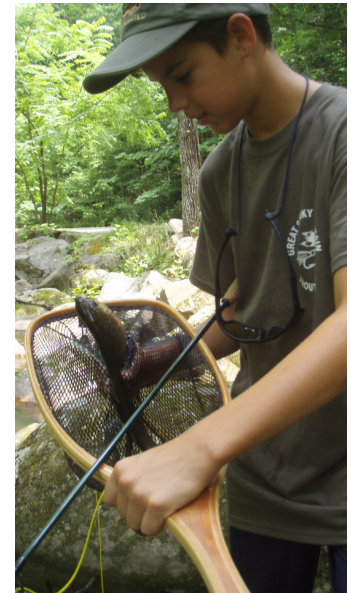
-Charlie

2014 Tennessee Trout Unlimited Aquatic Biology and Trout Camp Adventure

The TU Tennessee Council held the the 2014 Summer Youth Camp at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont on June 16–21. Boys and girls ages 12-15 can attend, but this year we had 12 boys; from TN, AL, KY and NC. Although the camp is a TN Council event, the Clinch River Chapter has taken the lead on organizing and staffing it with a little help from Great Smoky Mountains and Little River Chapter members.

A list of their activities makes me wish I could have gone to a camp like this when I started fishing. It included:

- Introduction to fly fishing with Ian & Charrity Rutter
- Nightly fly tying classes
- Fly casting lesson with Paula Begley at Little River Outfitters
- Ecology of 3rd & 4th Order Streams in GSMNP including lab – microscope work and water chemistry/quality
- Bluegill/bass pond fishing/casting
- Stream Physics & Build-a-River to understand the impacts of stream and shoreline structures
- Fishing at Norton Creek with individual fishing mentors
- Electrofishing with the Park Service and brook trout restoration with Matt Kulp
- Snorkeling on Little River with Forest Service, TVA and UT aquatic biologists



- Mountain stream fishing in the Park with individual fishing mentors
- The pond fishing and on Norton Creek with mentors gave the boys opportunities to practice setting the hook on strikes and playing fish. Norton Creek had many well fed rainbows in the 12 inch range. The boys got to see and learn about many non-trout species on Thursday helping the Park Service to capture fish with electro-shockers and

examine them up close in large water buckets. Then they saw the fish in their onstream while snorkeling.

On Friday the boys fished morning and afternoon with mentors in the National Park. One lesson they all shared was that it was harder to catch the wild trout than the fish at Norton Creek. Those of us who helped took away a feeling that we were starting a new generation of caretakers for our streams on a path we have taken and enjoyed so much!

-Charlie

Sportsman Act 2013 Update

As discussed briefly at last month's meeting there is legislation currently pending in the U. S. Senate relating to the BILL 2363 BIPATRISIAN SPORTSMAN ACT 2014. This bill now being considered for vote in the Senate has an amendment attached regarding legislation for future funding of trout in tailwaters which includes the authorization of TVA to provide the necessary funds in the twelve tailwaters the agency controls. There is currently a three year moratorium that went into effect in 2013 to provide funds needed until 2016. This was helped by the leadership of Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee. The amendment attached to the above bill was initiated by Sen. McCain on June 12, 2014, which Sen. Alexander and Sen. Corker, signed as co-sponsors. This amendment addresses other outdoor related issues but the tailwater funding is our primary concern at this time and where your help is needed. The bill first winds its way through the Senate for approval, then moves to the U.S. House of Representatives. If at that point the legislation passes, it then goes back to the Senate for presentation to the President. This means there are many stops along the way where bills and amendments can be sidetracked or removed from vote. It is vital we let our politicians know how important we regard this bill and we expect their help. I only suggest you be respectful and give your individual position as a sportsman or sportswoman, a fishing license and trout stamp holder, a possible TVA ratepayer and most of all as a concerned citizen.

I have included a series of links below which can give you access to the officeholders where you can enter a message of your support to our representatives. There are also links to the original TVA Meeting held in Knoxville, Tennessee on May 27, 2014. TU Tennessee Council President Rick Murphree read a statement on TU's stance at that time. There is also a link to the Little River Outfitters message board to a post I started on May 20, 2014 in advance of the first TVA public meeting. There have been over 4000 views at this point with responses from many concerned citizens people outside the region who routinely travel to fish these important waterways.

– John Reinhardt

Residents of Tennessee are represented in Congress by 2 Senators and 9 Representatives.

Senator Lamar Alexander: 202-224-4944

Senator John Corker: www.corker.senate.gov / 202-224-3344

Representative Phil Roe: roe.house.gov / 202-225-6356

Representative John J. Duncan, Jr.: duncan.house.gov / 202-225-5435

Representative Chuck Fleischmann: fleischmann.house.gov / 202-225-3271

Representative Scott DesJarlais: desjarlais.house.gov / 202-225-6831

Representative Jim Cooper: cooper.house.gov / 202-225-4311

Representative Diane Black: black.house.gov / 202-225-4231

Representative Marsha Blackburn: blackburn.house.gov / 202-225-2811

Representative Stephen Fincher: fincher.house.gov / 202-225-4714

Representative Steve Cohen: cohen.house.gov / 202-225-3265

LITTLE RIVER OUTFITTERS FORUM LINK:

<http://littleriveroutfitters.com/forum/showthread.php?t=17523>

TVA LINK:

<http://www.tva.gov/hatchery/>

Send Pictures

Those who were able to attend last month's meeting at Calhoun's saw the scrolling slide show displayed on the multiple monitors during social hour and dinner. We thought it would be fun to display pictures from our members with memorable fish, beautiful places and family / friends. We hope to continue to add and update the slide show for each meeting. But we need your pictures pertaining to fishing, TU volunteer work, conservation efforts or nature. You can send your pic's to my email address:

mjbryant1954@hotmail.com

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 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

Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website www.lrctu.org