

Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

July, 2016 Newsletter



Monthly Meeting

**Thursday, July 22 at
River John's Maryville**

President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)

After a dismal amount of time fishing this spring and early summer, I'm back in the streams chasing rainbows and brookies. With the summer low, warm water conditions, I'm focused on longer leaders and searching for pools that likely hold fish. I've been fishing with a beetle pattern that I can up with that's fooling a lot of fish this summer. Great fun to be back out on the water again. But I am conscious of how stressful very low flows have on fish and how improper handling can ultimately cause them to die. Check out an article below that we're reposting to improve the fish's odds of survival.

We had another great Trout Camp again this year. The kids learned a lot and by most accounts they all caught trout and had a great time. It was an interesting mix of skill sets from those who had never fished for trout before to a young man who ties flies for Cabela's. My grandson was visiting with us again this summer, so I had the opportunity to take him along for the evening fly tying at Trout Camp. He's at a great age to gain exposure to the Park, fly fishing and conservation. We had a blast hiking, fishing (he caught his first trout this year), and completed the necessary criteria to become a junior ranger at the Park.



Spending time with my grandson, the kids at Trout Camp and watching the hundreds of kids participate in trout release (Trout in the Classroom) has made for a great summer.

July Meeting – Outdoor Cookout at River John's

Mark your calendars for Thursday, July 28. Our annual outdoor meeting will again be at River John's. Fortunately Outdoor Chef Extraordinaire Mike McKinsey will be back on the grill. Check out the attached article for more details.

I hope you're having a great summer and getting the opportunity to get outside. I'll see you at River John's.

-Mike



July Chapter Meeting

As in the past, our July Chapter Meeting (Thursday, July 23) will be held outside at River Johns Outfitters (<http://www.riverjohns.com/map.htm>). Just outside of Mayville, River John's is located on a beautiful stretch of the Little River. Dinner is free! The July meeting will be a joint chapter meeting with the Great Smoky Mountain Chapter. You can fish along the shoreline before and after dinner. There are some great spots to catch smallies. So bring your gear and an appetite. Dinner will be served around 6:00pm. Come early and stay late.

2016 Clinch River Cleanup



The 2016 Big Clinch River Cleanup will be Saturday, July 23, starting with an 8 a.m. briefing and full breakfast for the first 100 registered volunteers at the Museum of Appalachia, 2819 Andersonville Highway, Norris.

To ensure that our breakfast count is correct, PLEASE REGISTER EVERY VOLUNTEER SEPARATELY via the link <http://crctu.org/big-cleanup-registration/>. Even if one volunteer is serving as contact person for a group, all group members including children must fill in separate registrations. If you have questions, contact Buzz Buffington at buzz.buffington@gmail.com or (865) 463-7167, or Jim Ferguson at jimferguson41@gmail.com or (865) 494-8081.

Great Volunteer Work Done in June

A really big thank you goes out for all the volunteers who helped on-stream in June. We helped electro-shocking to remove rainbow trout from Anthony Creek during 8 work days and to monitor Lynn Camp Prong brook trout population for 3 days.

By my count 35 different volunteers, most of them working multiple days gave up their time to put in the hard work on-stream needed. That includes members of all three TU chapters in our area, Dick Geiger, the chairman of the Tennessee State TU council, and our friend Mary Antoniono from North Carolina. It also included many non-TU members who signed up with us. That number does not even count the students and TWRA fisheries professionals recruited by the Park Service.

We cannot thank everyone enough!

Charlie Chmielewski - Volunteer Coordinator

Help Needed On-Stream for Anthony Creek in August!

Volunteers are needed for the third rainbow trout removal on Anthony Creek on August 1 – 4. If you want to help, please contact me.

In addition to newsletter announcements, I have an email distribution list for announcements of upcoming work. Many times, these announcement messages come out before the newsletter. If you have not been getting these announcements but would like to in the future, just let me know.

On-Stream Work in July:

Given below is the work accomplished in July. We are very fortunate to already have enough volunteers signed up for July other than using one more volunteer on July 14.

July 14 - Large Stream Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) Sample of Little River. Sample site upstream of the Wye just upstream of White Oak Branch bridge.

July 19 - Large Stream IBI Sample of Little River. Sample site just above Elkmont roughly 200m upstream of Little River trail-head.

July 21 - Three Pass Depletion Sample of Tabcat Creek. Just off of Hwy 129 in Blount County about 2 miles past lower Abrams Creek near Chilhowee Lake.

Thanks everyone for all the great support.

Charlie Chmielewski
Volunteer Coordinator
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Conservation – Catch & Release

“Game fish are too valuable to only be caught once” – Lee Wulff

Several years ago, TU's *Trout* magazine contained some excellent information on catch and release practices. While most of us have good intentions when practicing catch and release, the probability of a fish dying after release increase significantly if not handled properly.

To increase the survival rate with catch and release, here are the basics:

Barbless hooks. Barbless hooks minimize handling time, air exposure and risk of injury to a fish. Years ago, I started the habit of flattening the barb on a hook with my vise before starting to tie a fly pattern.

Retrieval. Tackle that is too light requires longer retrieval times, adding additional stress to a fish. This is true for all sizes of fish. In my past, I used a 12 weight fly rod to fish for tarpon, not to help cast in the wind or cast big flies, but to minimize the fight time and maximize the survival rate of these large fish.

Handling. Wet your hands before handling a fish to minimize the disturbance to the scales and protective mucus. Landing nets should be made of non-abrasive materials (knotless nylon or rubber).

Photographs. Minimize the amount of time the fish is out of the water, the total time should be less than 30 seconds. It's intuitive that after a fight, a fish needs to take in as much oxygen as possible. Holding a fish out of the water at this time will definitely start reducing the fish's survival rate. If a fish has fought particularly hard, make sure to gently hold the fish into the current allowing it time to revive and swim away on its own power.

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