

Next Meeting

When: June 25, 2009 (4th Thursday of the month). Dinner served around 7:00 p.m. Come earlier if you like.

Where: River John's Island – located on the Little River, just northeast of Maryville on Cave Mill Rd.

Directions: Fm last Pellissippi Pkwy exit, go left on Hwy 33, right on Sam Houston, left on Wildwood, right on Cave Mill.

Program: No set program, just good food – provided once again by Mike Stiehl – and the opportunity to bring your gear and chuck some flies in the river. This is a chance to pick up hands on casting and fishing tips from some of our more learned members. Byron Begley (Little River Outfitters) has promised to bring some bass flies/poppers for “field trial”.

Fish your way to our June meeting

at River John's. If you're looking to get in some fishing on your way to the meeting Thursday June 25, then here's your opportunity. We have permission to put in boats (kayaks, canoes, etc.) on the Little River 2 miles upstream from River John's off of Hitch Road. The trip takes 2 hours plus, depending on how much you fish. Call Dave Ezell at 865-567-1479 or e-mail at ezop@charter.net, to reserve a spot and to make arrangements to portage vehicles and boats from River John's back to the put in. River John has boats for rent as well: 865-982-0793.

Troutfest '09 a Resounding Success

That wasn't a Tennessee Twister that hit Sunday evening May 17th, that was just the combined exhale of relief and gratification from the many volunteers who helped put LRCTU's Troutfest into the “Premier” category of fishing festivals held around the country.

From the banquet held Friday night -- with donated auction items that ranged from fly fishing at an Alaskan lodge to a handmade reel by Stan Bogdan, to the fly tiers demo tent, including the likes of Joe Humphreys, Bob Clouser and other notables, to casting lessons from Lefty Kreh – there was something for everyone.

For once, the fishing enthusiasts may have outnumbered the fish in adjacent Little River as attendance estimated at the three-day Townsend festival reached upwards of 3,500 for the weekend. Despite a little bit of inclement weather, reviews from vendors, demonstrators and participants have been very positive towards the expanded format.

Byron Begley, chair of the Troutfest committee for LRCTU, said all national vendors indicated they would return next year. According to Begley, an intensive advertising effort helped bolster attendance. “We sent information to every store that sells fly fishing equipment in the surrounding seven states,” he said (Cont'd Pg 2)

Troutfest Success (cont'd fm Pg 1)

In addition to the advertising, coverage of the event hit the local airwaves when WBIR news aired interviews and footage of Troutfest on the 11:00 o'clock news. Roy Hawk, our webmaster, has incorporated the this interview into LRCTU's web site where it can be viewed along with a slide show from pictures by Gary Verholek. Of course, the proof of this year's event is in the pudding, or, in this case, the receipts, since the event is intended to provide funds for GSMNP to improve trout habitat. After expenses, the total available funds from the event amounted to \$34,082. From Begley, the LRCTU board and other organizers, thanks to all of the volunteers who dedicated many hours of time to making Troutfest '09 a resounding success.



Plenty of good home cooked food at the



Lefty Kreh teaches cast craft



Tying tips from the masters



Park official addresses the banquet gathering

LITTLE RIVER CLEAN UP

About 40 volunteers showed up for the annual LRCTU clean up in April. Park Service employees from the Great Smokey Mountains National Park helped provide transportation and coordinate the effort. The group picked up litter along both sides of Little River Road in the Park from Elkmont down river to the Townsend "Y". Afterwards, all were treated to well-deserved meal cooked by our BBQ chef in residence Mike Stiehl.



Upcoming Events:

July Meeting:

Where: Bass Pro Store, Sevierville, Intersection of I-40 and Hwy 66.

When: July 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Program: Jeff Loftin, a guide with experience all around the country and currently concentrating in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina will give us some information on fishing local streams including the South Holston. For more information on Jeff, go to www.jeffloftinflyfishing.com

Lynn Camp Prong Restoration:

The planned restocking of Lynn Camp Prong as a part of the restoration effort to create and maintain a mid-elevation brook trout stream has been postponed to allow additional eradication of Rainbow species. The schedule for brook trout restoration work had to be changed when stream electro-shock monitoring detected quantities of rainbow trout capable of reproduction in the upper portion of Marks Creek, a small tributary of Lynn Camp near camp ground 28, and in a downstream area in the gorge. The Park Service will re-treat these areas in the next two weeks, but the schedule will depend on the weather. Once the treatment is complete, the brook trout collection and moving will be scheduled and volunteers notified. Volunteers will need to be on call and can place their names on the list by contacting Charlie Chmielewski at cchm@charter.net or you can call him at 865-661-7325.

The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a Non-Profit Volunteer Organization that is Committed to Protecting and Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds In and Around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park



Thanks to all of you who worked on Troutfest. Great Job!

And thanks for attending, supporting and donating to Troutfest. Together we have made a difference that we can all be proud of forever.

Little River Outfitters

www.littleriveroutfitters.com
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Stop by or call about our monthly fishing seminars, schools and tying classes

Correction: In the last issue of LRCTU Newsletter, the handmade bamboo rod donated as a raffle item for Troutfest 2009 was incorrectly listed as the "Mike Bonfert bamboo rod". Mike made the tube and display case for the rod, however, the rod was made and donated by Charlie Downs.

Bargain Basement; The chapter is doing its part to help during the current economic downturn and will be offering Yellow and Orange Troutfest T's at the June Meeting for only \$2.00 each— last years model only.