

Little River Chapter Newsletter

Editor
Joe Hatton



June 2007
www.lrctu.org

Next Meeting

It's time for some R&R. We are moving the location & **time** of this month's meeting to **6:30 P.M.** on June 28th at River John's Island at 4134 Cave Mill Road, turn right off Wildwood Road as you cross the Little River. At this month's meeting we will have hamburgers, hot-dogs and chips so bring your appetite! Also pack your fly rod for some casting lessons. Soft drinks will be provided, members need to bring their own extra refreshment. Please bring a lawn chair or something to sit on. See the map and directions to River Johns on our newsletter web page.

Stream work

June 11 - 13 Sams Creek Evaluation
- re-sample monitoring sites & evaluate brook trout (12-14th)

June 25 - 27 Bear Creek Evaluation & Brook Trout Transplant - re-sample monitoring sites & evaluate brook trout

July 9 - 12 Indian Flats Prong Evaluation & Brook trout Transplant - re-sample monitoring sites & evaluate brook trout (10-12th)

July 21 - 22 Bi-Monthly Acid Deposition Sample

Fishing Report

Welcome to the Little River Chapter Fishing Report. I sincerely hope that by the time you read this we have had some rain. Today, the streams are extremely low. In fact the gauge at the "Y" on the Little River is lower than it was last year in August. The trout have been spooky but fishing has been pretty good considering the conditions. During the last three weeks of May the Smokies anglers who did best fished early and late and hit the riffles where the trout were hiding. Or they fished near cover. Also, they were using lighter tippet sizes than you would normally use in May. And early June is starting out the same.

It seems the average rainbow trout size is larger than normal this year in the Park. There were some nice browns caught in May too. Abrams Creek has been fishing well. Abrams is as close to a Spring Creek or Limestone Stream as you can get in the Smokies. Much of the water runs underground through Cades Cove emerging near the trailhead cool and with a high PH.

Throughout this drought and warm weather the mid-elevation streams have been good to anglers. Some examples are Lynn Camp Prong, Fish Camp Prong and the East Prong of the Little River near Elkmont. The water temperatures have peaked near seventy degrees at the "Y" here in the valley and the higher elevations have been cooler.

The color is yellow, for dry flies at least.

Yellow Palmer, Yellow Stimulator, Yellow Sally patterns, Yellow Elk Hair Caddis, Yellow Parachute Adams and Light Cahills. The Smokies trout still like Thunderheads and Parachute Adams. For nymphs you can't beat a Green Weenie. Don't slam them unless you've tried them. Don't forget Tellico Nymphs and Bead Head Pheasant Tails.

Some of the tailwaters are fishing well and some are not. The Cumberland River below Wolf Creek Dam was red hot in May. Anglers were seeing some of the best fishing ever there. But with less generation and warming water it has slowed down. The Caney Fork has been excellent this year. I saw one photo of a ten pound brown caught there. The Hiwassee fished well in May as did the South Holston. The Tellico and its tributaries have been offering good fishing this Spring but like the Smokies, the water has been low through most of May.

If we get quite a bit of rain June should be a good month to fish in the Smokies. If we continue with this dry weather I can't tell you what will happen. I don't remember when we've had a Spring and early Summer like this. But I've only lived here fifteen years. Ask Walter Babb, Jack Gregory or Bill Bolinger. They can tell you about the early 80's and that drought.

Have a great June.

Byron Begley

A Moment of Pause

By M. Gary Verholek

As I drove a quiet country lane back from an afternoon of fishing, I passed a little church with one of those signs. The sign had a message that caused me to pause.

I had been running some errands for TROUTFEST and realized I was only a few minutes from Nance's Ferry on the Holston River. I never travel without my fly-fishing

gear, so I decided to see if there was any action on the water.

When I arrive, there was no one to be seen; the parking lot was empty. I strung my Temple Fork TiCr 5-wt, and walked the well-worn trail up the river a hundred yards entering near the first riffle. I didn't see anything hatching, but since the Holston was known to be a Caddisfly river, I tied on an Elk Hair Caddis. To hedge my bet, I added a gold Bead-head Pheasant Tail dropper.

It didn't take long before I had a strike in the nearest run, but it was quite a while until I had another and I had to move to another run for that. Near mid-river there were two shoals that formed a deeper, faster run. Below the shoal was a nice pool, and then the water turned quiet for a long stretch past the bend.

The conflicting currents made dead drifting difficult, but finally, I managed to hook a nice fat Rainbow about 12-inches long as my fly swung into the pool. I released the fish and cast up into the run. The EHC stopped; I set; and another chunky Rainbow was on. For about two hours, the Rainbows were very accommodating in the run and the lower pool. For a while, it didn't seem to matter if I managed a dead drift or not, I caught hefty rainbows from 12" to 14". The fish fought vigorously and took advantage of the current, putting a serious bend in the 5-wt and even making my SA Mastery sing a couple of times.

As fast as it started, the Rainbows turned off. As rumbles of thunder echoed in the valley, I stopped to soak in the view, savor

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with your questions and interest

the ache in my arm and just enjoy the moment. It was time to call it a day – a great day.

I had just spent a couple of hours wrestling chunky Rainbows, and I was feeling thoroughly superior, when I passed the little church. That's when I noticed the sign out front that said, "Have you thanked God today?" I hadn't...but I did.

Troutfest Man-hours

Roy Hawk is working on the final numbers on Troutfest and I should be able to give a full report in next month's Newsletter. Everyone that helped with Troutfest can help us with one of the other most important jobs. Keeping up with our volunteer man-hours. So if you have helped with Troutfest in anyway, please turn in your man-hours. There are a lot of work that goes on behind the scene that myself and others do not ever find out about. But it is important that we have all volunteer man-hours turned in. There are two reasons we keep up with man-hours. First is for matching grants. The Park fisheries can use our volunteer man-hours to match donations that are given to the park by other organization. The other reason is National Trout Unlimited requires us to turn in all of our volunteer man-hours as part of a annual report that is turned in every October.

You can send them by e-mail to jthatton@knology.net or phone 558-8782. You can also write them down and give them to me or Jeff Hall at our next meeting. If you have helped with the Auction or Banquet you can give your man-hours to Rufus King phone 995-1146 or Joe Teffeteller phone 984-1664. But what every you do please help by turning in your man-hours.

Thanks Joe

Good Eats

Being off work for the last couple of weeks. I have had time to watch a few TV shows. While flipping though the channels I came across the "Hook Line and Dinner" episode of Good Eats hosted by Alton Brown. One of the recipe was Pan Fried Fish. I have posted on the Newsletter web-page the recipes and videos links for the show. The show is in two parts, for the trout fisherman make sure you watch part two. But if you like grilling make sure to watch both videos.

Fly of the Month

Peacock Caddis

Hook: Standard dry fly

Thread: Black 6/0

Body: Peacock herl, twisted with red wire

Downwing: Elk hair

Hackle: One brown, one grizzly



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