

Shall We Gather at the River June Meet at River Johns

When: June 24th, 2010 (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 and the opportunity to bring your gear and chuck some flies in the river. This is a chance to pick up tips on casting and fishing tips from some of our more learned members.

Fishing Report

It is Summer in the Great Smoky Mountains. Visitors are here for their vacations in the mountains. Business is brisk around our town. I seems busier than last year to me. Little River is getting it's share of tubers. It will be that way for a couple of months. Our little town seems to be doing well.

Fishing for trout in the streams has been good so far. The water level in Little River has been running about normal though rainfall is below normal for the year. We are seeing scattered thunderstorms in the afternoons, which is usual. This week it is hotter than normal. We all hope that is not a lasting trend. Cades Cove has a newly paved road. They say it's nice. I haven't seen it yet and probably won't until Fall.

Fishing on the lakes for smallmouth bass has been great. Well, it was until last week. We noticed it being slower. Maybe we need to change tactics.

Fishing this time of year is best in the backcountry or further away from main roads where tubers and swimmers are not present. The higher elevation streams will be cooler and provide good fishing for you. Evenings are excellent. Early mornings are great. Plan on fishing until close to dark. June is usually a good month to fish unless it is a drought year. July is our wettest month. .

Byron Begley

Troutfest 2010 Makes A Big Splash

Just about any aspect of fly fishing could be experienced on the highest level during the three days of Troutfest 2010 in Townsend last month. If you could cast it, tie it, read it or wear it, then a sample was yours to try from one of the numerous vendors.

And who better to get a casting lesson from than the affable Lefty Kreh, Joe Humphreys or Bob Clouser. All three provided free lessons at intervals throughout the day Saturday and Sunday.

The kickoff event, Friday night's banquet, attracted a large crowd who enjoyed the chicken dinner provided by caterer Miss Lilly's, and quickly got into a charitable mood by aggressively bidding on auction items from a one week resort stay in the Bahamas to a handmade Stanley Bogden fly



reel. Attendance and proceeds from the auction again surpassed last year's efforts.

Welcomed clear skies and mild temperatures, for the most part, helped increase visitors and made this our largest event to date. A number of food vendors provided a choice of great eats that could be enjoyed while listening to one of several great music performances from the sound stage.

Byron Begley, chairman of Troutfest 2010, called the event "a huge success". "Over one hundred volunteers participated", he said. "That made the job easier for everyone."

(Cont'd on next page)

Troutfest (Cont'd)

Volunteers came from as far as Florida, South Mississippi and Texas.

Others came to help from other states close to ours and from our state as well. It was amazing how organized the event has become. This is the first time we had "volunteer coordinators". That worked well. We also had twice as many vendors as ever before. The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited will donate over \$40,000 to the National Park Fisheries Department soon."

Money made from Troutfest will help support brook trout restoration efforts in the Smokies. Additionally money will be donated to the Trout Unlimited Kids Trout School at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, a project several Trout Unlimited Chapters and the State TU Council are working on.



The Art of Fly Fishing with Streamers

Ian & Charity Rutter of RandR Fly fishing provided an informative program at our April meeting on fishing with streamers. A new book entitled "Fly Fishing With Streamers – Advice From The Guides" is co-authored by the two.

According to Charity, streamer fishing is more work, but with a very visual reward - you get to see the fish attack the lure. You should be in control of the fly and the line. The movement or "action" of a streamer is more important than water movement. Keep your rod tip low. This gets action on the fly instead of the tip of the rod, she said. Every twitch and slight pull transfers action to the streamer.

Strip line aggressively for maximum action. Pick up the pace if a fish follows.

"The idea is to use current to your advantage," Ian said. "Make the fly trigger the predatory instinct in a fish. Do this around cut banks and dark slots.

Ian said he uses a combination jerk and strip action where he strips line and jerks the rod at the same time to increase action. "You want to make the streamer look like a panicked bait," he added.

A pendulum cast works best for Ian on short casts. "This can lay a heavy fly down lightly and help you stay in touch with your lure.

As far as setting the hook goes, Charity recommends the strip set over lifting the tip of the rod. "A lot of times the fish will just nip the back of the streamer, lifting the rod will lift the nose of the lure and you'll miss. Stripping keeps the lure in front of the fish," she explained.

The couple mentioned one lure they have found successful in their guiding on the Clinch and the South Holston, the wiggle minnow. This is an articulated, double hook streamer that gives more of a crippled look, usually white in

color with two #4 hooks.

And don't be afraid to throw a big fly if it's a big fish you're after. Ian said that a Yellowstone Park study showed that the size prey found in a fish's stomach averaged 20 percent of the predator's size.

Recommended equipment by the two is a stiffer, faster action rod with a full sink link line and short, stout leader. Use a no slip loop knot at the fly which allows the fly to move more freely.

Bottle Bill Needs Support

By Byron Begley

There is an organization in Tennessee called Pride of Place (POP). The mission is to legislate a 5 cent deposit on all bottles and cans. Currently we are paying a litter tax on these containers and under the proposal by POP that would be eliminated.

They have a bill in the State Legislature, it's been there a while and it is currently in a non-action status. This deposit has been in place in several states and evidently it works to keep litter off the roads and out of the rivers. POP says it provides jobs and saves oil.

I've been asked to look into this and possibly support it in our County and State. I believe the Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited has signed on as a supporter. I'm just looking into it at this point and don't have a lot of knowledge. You can visit [POP's WEBSITE HERE](#).

All POP expenses, including the handling fees paid to the redemption centers, will come out of the accrued unclaimed deposits. The State's litter program will be paid by the 1/8 cent fee collected from the beverage distributor.

This sounds like a good idea on the surface. POP says that 80.4% of Tennesseans support this idea.

Brook Trout Stream In Smokies Sabotaged

(excerpted from Maryville Daily Times)

The brook trout stocked in Lynn Camp Prong spawned last fall. Monitoring this past week showed good populations of young of the year fish. They are between 2" to 2 1/2" long. The adult brook trout are faring well. They were fat and happy. Unfortunately, some rainbow trout were captured.

The Park Service suspects an individual or individuals stocked them. It is yet to be determined what will be done about this problem. Continued electroshocking will help remove any rainbow trout found. Additional plans will be implemented to make sure this doesn't happen again. Lynn Camp Prong, a Smokies stream was stocked with 1,200 native brook trout last fall.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials call the act sabotage. The restocking introduced rainbows back into the 8-miles of stream designated for the native brookies.

When Park biologists were electroshocking the fish to determine how well the brook trout were faring, "several large rainbow trout that wouldn't have been missed last year because of their size were discovered. It is clear that people are restocking rainbows in that stream illegally," said Nancy Gray, a Smokies spokeswoman. Thus far, 11 of the large rainbows have been removed from the stream by the Park staff using the electroshock method. One of the fish was identified by its clipped fins as coming from a hatchery. Two other rainbows were possibly hatchery-bred.

"The rainbows are more aggressive and compete for habitat and food," Gray said.

Anyone with information on who stocked the rainbows is asked to call the Park at 865-436-1230.

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.

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Reminder -

Acid deposition sampling is
coming up on Saturday, July 17
and/or Sunday July 18. Cosby
Creek – Dave Carson, Little
River Abhrams – Ken Hender-
sen, Oconaluftee – Mike
McKinsey and Alum Cave Road
Prong – Chad McFall.

Any questions about helping
out contact one of the leaders
above or volunteer coordinator
Charlie Chmielewski at 865-661-
7325 or e-mail at [charliefly-
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your terrific support is appreciated.