

# Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

JUNE, 2016 Newsletter



## Monthly Meeting

**Thursday, June 23rd at  
Calhoun's Maryville**

## President's Corner

Mike Bryant ([mjbryant1954@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbryant1954@hotmail.com))

I wanted to start this month's article with a several huge THANK YOU's. We had another very successful semester with Trout-in-the-Classroom, including eight different schools releasing trout into the Little River. My first THANK YOU goes out to the Samantha and Mark, owners of the KOA Campground in Townsend. They have totally embraced the TIC program, providing a location on the Little River for all of our releases since we started the program a year and a half ago. We had over 400 kids involved in the release this spring! Samantha and Brian run an impeccable campground. So please support them by staying at their facility or have your friends and family stay there. My second thank you goes to Matt Kulp, Caleb Abramson and other Park employees who helped make the TIC releases a great success. Their ability to show and explain to the kid's what's living in our waters and why it's important to have clean water was a perfect element to the release. The third and most important THANK YOU goes to our TIC volunteers and overall Volunteer Coordinator Joyce Frey. What can I say except that without their leadership, skills, dedication and enthusiasm, there would be no TIC program in our area. Many, many thanks for another great semester!!!



As I write this article, Trout Camp is only weeks away. All the planning is in place and all the volunteers are ready to go. I can't wait. I'll be a river helper when the kids are fishing in the Park and coordinating the nightly fly tying program. As you can imagine, this program takes a lot of volunteer time and commitment and I am proud that our Chapter continues to support Trout Camp.

Work on the Anthony Creek restoration has started. Our volunteer base continues to play a vital role in this and past restoration efforts along with all the other activities, i.e. water sampling. Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered your time and talents. You can be proud knowing your efforts are making a difference.

On a personal note, this year's fishing has been nothing to write home about. After a terrible month of basically no fishing (i.e. no catching) in the Florida Everglades, my time on the water back here at home has been little to none. Heavy travel, a death in the family, multiple out-of-state visitors staying with us somehow kept my fly rods stacked up in the corner of my tying room. Then the dreaded kidney stone decided to move out of my kidney, which brought my fishing (and just about everything else) to a dead halt. But I'm improving and the month of June is usually kind to me. So, like most of you, I'm the eternal optimist when it comes to the next trip to the river.

June Meeting / Program – The legendary Walter Babb will be our guest tier at the June meeting. Walter will be tying and talking about his experiences in the Park. It's a great way to see a legend at work and learn a thing or two. We meet at Calhoun's in Maryville.

I hope you will be able to make the June meeting. Be safe and enjoy the summer.

-Mike

## **June Meeting: Tying Demonstration by Walter Babb**



The June meeting will feature well-known local angler Walter Babb who will demonstrate tying a few of his favorite flies. Walter, a long-time LRCTU member, donates countless hours to demonstrating his craft. Also known for his bamboo rod building, Walter teaches beginner and advanced fly tying classes at Little River Outfitters in Townsend.

The meeting will be held at our normal location, Calhoun's Maryville, located on Watkins Rd., in the Target store complex near the intersection of Hwy 321 and Hwy 129. Social hour starts at 6:00 p.m. and the demo will begin at 7:00. Come and enjoy good food (only if you choose to) and some excellent fly tying instruction.

## **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](mailto:buzz.buffington@gmail.com) or (865) 463-7167, or Jim Ferguson at [jimferguson41@gmail.com](mailto:jimferguson41@gmail.com) or (865) 494-8081.

## **TIE & LIE Scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Casual Pint**

Tie and Lie night will be at The Casual Pint on Monday, June 27 from 6 till 8pm. We will be learning a new way of tying a dry fly wing. With the dry fly season in full swing, it is always good to know new ways of dressing up our dry flies.



It was a great day of volunteer service and fellowship with folks representing TU, Little River Outfitters of Townsend, "VOLS on the FLY" from UT-KNOX campus, Project Healing Waters member, Dan Moneymaker and other groups. Hats off to all the volunteers, the Park Service staff and those with other conservation groups who gave their time. The best part was that the rain held off until everything was packed up. Join us next year for this great event in the Park.

## **Anthony Creek Brook Trout Restoration**

### **Volunteers Still Needed for Stream Work in June**

This is the first brook trout restoration project to be done since we completed Lynn Camp Prong. The stream is one of the few remaining where restoration is possible. Anthony Creek is the stream that runs through the Cades Cove Picnic Area that is accessed on the left before entering the Cades Cove Loop road.

The stream is small enough to make it feasible to remove the rainbow trout by electro-shocking rather than stream treatment. However, the stream will have to be shocked multiple times. The first shocking is taking place June 7– 10. Thanks to a great response we already have a good number of volunteers for each days, except for June 10 which was added due to stream flow issues early in the week.

June 20 – 23 is scheduled for an electro-shock evaluation. The evaluation will monitor the numbers and sizes of the brook trout and also verify that no rainbow trout are present. This is an important sample to make sure



everything on Lynn Camp Prong is continuing as planned. Several people have already signed up to help. We can use 3 – 4 more volunteers each day for this evaluation.

The second shocking is scheduled for June 27 – 30. Several volunteers have signed up already before an email call for volunteers has been sent out, but we will need up to 7 – 8 more each day.

## Some Thoughts on Fly Tying

Mike Bryant

### Colors – Locating Your Fly on the Water

My eyesight has never been particularly good. As I've grown older, spotting small objects like a #16 fly has become more difficult. And varying light and water conditions make it an even greater challenge. Light conditions can vary between bright sunlight, heavy shade, gray skies, or very low light (dusk, dawn, heavy overcast). Water can vary from surface foam to clear to dark / stained.

For me, no one single fly or color is visible in all conditions. Over the last couple of years I've honed in on several colors that have helped me sight a fly on the water.

A short review of fluorescent colors. As you remember from your school days, an object will look (to you) a particular color (say red) because all the other wavelengths are absorbed by the object and only the red wavelength is reflected to your eyes. We all have heard of and seen different fluorescent colors in our lives. Fluorescent colors are unique. A fluorescent red object will look red even when struck with longer wavelength light such as ultraviolet, blue or green light. So this can be helpful when trying to locate an object (your fly) less than ideal light conditions.

I tie most of my parachute flies with a post incorporating one of the following fluorescent colors:

- Fluorescent White – Under those bright sunlit days trout tend to be more wary and can be turned off by unnatural colors. A white post is more natural color but is still easy for my eyes to pick up on the water.
- Fluorescent White & Pink Combo – When fishing on bright sunny days, but in heavy shade, a combo white / pink post shines like a light bulb. It doesn't seem to bother the fish.
- Fluorescent Orange – This really shows up on those darker days or when fishing early or late. My experience is that orange can be too "bright" on bright sunny days, but under dark conditions this is the color I turn to.

I personally use Spirit River Fluorofiber for my posts. They sell a variety of colors besides what I have mentioned.

Another observation I have made on the stream is how shapes can help me locate a fly. For whatever reason, shape can be a key factor in my eyes finding a fly. I fish a lot of Haystacks in the Park. Even with a natural brown / gray colored wing that tends to blend into the surrounding colors, the shape of the wing is easy to my eyes to pick up.



So, experiment a little. See what works for you. Think about the conditions you are fishing under and try something new and see if it helps you catch more fish.

## Kayaks For Sale

2012 14' Freedom Hawk Fishing Kayak (two identical kayaks available for sale)

- Standup fishing via retractable outrigger pontoon design; great for flyfishing
- More details available on <http://freedomhawkkayaks.com/>
- Lightly used, excellent condition (we decided to buy a flatsboat this year)
- Includes upgrades – upgraded seat, composite light weight paddle, motor mount for trolling motor (not included), deluxe anchor trolley and anchor.

Total retail: \$1925 each

Asking: \$1195.00 each

(first kayak sold will include a Freedom Hawk fly rod holder (\$45) and a 7 ft. Stick It Anchor Pin (\$85))

Contact Mike Bryant ([mjbryant1954@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbryant1954@hotmail.com))



**Note:** If you have used gear that you think would be useful in a second life and you'd like to make mention of it here, send pictures, description and price to me, Dave Ezell [ezop@charter.net](mailto:ezop@charter.net) and, if worthy, it will be included as space permits.

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Also, keep up with current events and find valuable information sources at our website [www.lrctu.org](http://www.lrctu.org)