

# Trout Unlimited



*Summertime is definitely here!!*

*Let's enjoy our rivers and streams.*

## President's Thoughts

Thanks to all who helped with trout camp. I have had the pleasure of fishing with some of the graduates of the camp and it is great to see how much the camp has meant to them. They are fishermen who truly enjoy fly fishing. So thanks to all that help to make that happen.

Well it is finally summer. Two factors to take into account water temperature and dissolved oxygen. Warmer water make it nice for wet wading. It is great not having to crawl into waders but higher water

Next Meeting

Tuesday  
June 26th

**Barley's**  
**Maryville**

Fly Tying Class

Monday  
June 25th

**The Casual Pint**  
**Maryville**

temperatures make it tough on the trout. So if you want to catch trout, you have to find cooler water.

Dissolved oxygen dissipates quicker in warm water. What that means to fishermen is that as the water warms the closer to riffles the fish will move. The turbulent water also provides cover for the fish when the water gets lower.

You all know this but I may help a newbie.

June's meeting will be **Barleys in Maryville on Tuesday, June 26**. Social hour starts at 6 pm and business meeting at 7pm. Our speaker will be **Michael Hicks from the TVA River Forecast Center**. Hopefully he will tell us "The Whole Dam Story".

July's meeting will be Thursday, July 26 at River John's. Burgers and dogs will be provided but plan to bring a side dish.

## Tie 'n' Lie

Jimmy Jones will be showing how to tie with a microfoam. The fly will be a form of Neversink Caddis.

We will meet at The Casual Pint in Maryville at 6pm on Monday, June 25.



## Asheville Volunteer Group Repairs Historic Palmer Barn

Great Smoky Mountains National Park recently received help to restore key elements of the historic Palmer Barn. Asheville building contractor Sean Perry and his crew partnered with the park and Friends of the Smokies to preserve the structural integrity of the barn and improve visitor safety through the renovation project in Cataloochee in the North Carolina section of the park.



"We are grateful for partners like Sean Perry who volunteered their expertise to help us make much-needed repairs to the Palmer Barn this year and the Cook Cabin last year," said Superintendent Cassius Cash. "This is a great example of a private-public partnership that has enabled us to better care for these special places."



The circa 1902 three-story Palmer Barn sits near the Palmer House in Cataloochee which is one of the most frequently visited locations in the Big Cataloochee area of the park. Perry's team helped renovate the large timber bridge leading into the barn, replaced a 26-foot long section of a 6x6 sill beam on the back of the barn, replaced support posts and select siding, and made other structural improvements.

"Our restoration work is a gift to the Smokies, our community, and to those who had to leave their homes behind due to the creation of the park," said Sean Perry. "It felt amazing each day to drive the 2.5 miles from our campsite, along fields of elk, to our job site where all that mattered for a week's time was completing this single project. Each day we'd look at the day's accomplishments with true joy and inspiration."

The Palmer home place is treasured by park visitors, many of whom who enjoy exploring the massive barn, walking back in time as they enter the barn's second level by way of the unique, 30-foot long, locust timber bridge. The house includes an exhibition that provides interpretation to the history of the Palmer family site, complete with black and white photos of its past residents. The Friends of the Smokies funded repairs last year to the Palmer House including a new shake roof, rot repairs, and new paint.



In 2017, Perry and his crew spent a week camping in Little Cataloochee performing significant restoration work on the 19th century Cook Cabin. In 2017, after Matt Bush of Blue Ridge

Public Radio News ventured out to the remote Cook Cabin site and subsequently aired a story about the Hands of Sean Perry Co.'s work there, Friends of the Smokies supporters Rich and Leigh Pettus stepped forward with a significant financial donation, earmarked for renovation materials for the Palmer Barn, a place the Pettuses treasure as well.



"The Hands of Sean Perry Co.'s donation of a week's worth of highly skilled crew labor, combined with the Pettuses' financial gift for materials is reminder of how lucky we are to have such a unique partnership and we at Friends of the Smokies and Great Smoky Mountains National Park are thankful for their

generosity," said Friends of the Smokies North Carolina Director Anna Zanetti. Friends of the Smokies is an official nonprofit partner of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and has

raised more than \$60 million to support critical park programs and maintain the Smokies as a crown jewel of the National Park Service.

To view a video highlighting the renovation work, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvqyuQvgJGU&feature=youtu.be>. For more information about Cataloochee, please visit <https://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/cataloochee.htm>.

*This has been a*  
**Great Smoky Mountains News Release**

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## Meeting Notes from May

Date: May 22, 2018

Location: Barley's Maryville

Meeting Type: General Meeting

Presiding Officer: Ernie Frey,  
President

Attendees: General Membership

Agenda: Membership Health,  
Visitors and New Members,  
Fishing Stories, Newsletter Articles

Some upcoming dates to keep in mind:

June 18 -25 - Trout Camp

June 25 - Tie & Lie at The Casual Pint



- June 26 - Next LRCTU meeting at Barley's
- July 26 - LRCTU outing will be at River John's
- October 5 - Fall Camping trip to Smokemont

#### Trout in the Classroom:

We had another great year for our Trout in the Classroom program. Ten schools, 386 students, released fish from April 30 to May 17. A special thanks to Joyce Frey for a fantastic job in coordinating the program.

#### Wildlife Conservationist of the Year:

Our own Charlie Chmielewski received this award on May 18th at the Annual 53rd Conservationist Awards ceremony. See the writeup below from their website.

Charlie is an outstanding conservation volunteer. Over the past 25 years, Charlie volunteered more than 2,300 hours and coordinated another 17,000 hours dedicated to monitoring fish and water quality in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In order to ensure more than 250 water samples were collected each year, some from remote areas, Charlie creatively engaged volunteers to take ownership in the project. Because of Charlie's dedication, data have been provided to multiple state and federal agencies to safeguard wildlife and aquatic habitats.

#### **Guest Speaker:** Bill Stiver - Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for GSMNP

Our guest speaker for May was Bill Stiver. He is the Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for the Great Smoky's Mountain National Park.

Bill opened his presentation with an important question. What's a black bear worth? There is estimated to be over 1600 black bears in the park. That would be two for every square mile.

There are also over 11 million people who visit the park every year. The human / bear interaction is where all the problems occur. The NUMBER ONE issue with this interaction is trash management. Those 11 million visitors generate over 520 tons of trash annually. The management of that trash is the most important issue that Bill deals with.

Some of the steps he and his team have taken to manage that issue are ..



- Bear proof dumpsters for trash disposal
- BBQ grill redesign to eliminate food waste in the grill
- New food storage regulations
- Education, education and education of the park visitor.



Bill also told us about bear behavior. He talked about wild bears and nuisance bears. If wild bears are fed or have easy access to human food because of visitors not managing their food storage they may become nuisance bears. This tends to be a bigger issue in the backcountry. Proper food storage is the number one issue. Food storage systems have been installed in many of those backcountry campgrounds.

Bears that have raided campgrounds or picnic areas and have become nuisance bears will normally be captured and relocated. This does not always work. A bear that is relocated over 40 miles away may still come back to where it was captured. If this continues to happen the problem bear may have to be euthanized. Bears are only euthanized based on behavior.

Other problems that Bill and his team have to address are road kills and injuries mostly caused by the bear being hit by a car. If the injury is our fault, the bear will be treated. If the injury is from natural causes the bear may be left alone.

Safety: Wild bear behavior normally falls into three different categories, defensive, offensive, predatory.

Defensive - you got too close to the bear. It will charge you and then stop short. This is the most common behavior.

Offensive - the bear wants your food. Especially in food limited time of the year.

Predatory - the bear wants to kill you. Extremely rare behavior.

What should you do if you encounter a bear in the wild?

Don't play dead with a black bear

Don't run. Back off slowly

Throw rock at the bear

Scream and be aggressive. Make noise!!

Carry bear spray

Report all bear encounters inside and outside the park to the visitor centers or park dispatch

Hibernation: In a good food (good supply) year the bears will typically begin hibernation in December. In a bad food year, in November.

Bill ended his presentation with the same question he began with,

What's a black bear worth?

The black bear is the symbol of the Smokies. Please do all you can to help keep our black bears wild.