



NOTES FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Most of us initially joined Trout Unlimited due to our love of trout fishing and later realized the importance of conservation efforts to sustain the future of our cold-water fisheries. We continue to fish for many reasons and sometimes fishing can even become an obsession. Sara and I have been striving to complete the Utah Cutthroat Slam for the past year; so, I thought I would share our most recent experience with you.

Sara caught three of the four subspecies of cutthroat trout required to complete the Slam last summer and only needed to catch one Yellowstone Cutthroat. Yes, native Yellowstone Cutthroat really exist in the Raft River Mountain Range in Northern Utah and are slightly more elusive than Bigfoot and live in creeks the size of drainage ditches. On the first day the water temperature was 47 degrees and flowing high. She got three strikes in about 5 hours of fishing and managed to hook one that went into a root ball. I was able to touch the fish, but unable to free it from the roots. I finally decided it was time to go for broke and tried to net the entire root ball which was an epic failure. Needless to say, it was a quiet 90-mile ride back to Brigham City which is the closest town with a restaurant and hotel.

After a week in Yellowstone National Park, we returned to the Raft River Mountains hoping for warmer and lower water to improve fishing conditions. Heavy rains overnight actually made the water higher and colder (44 degrees). After two hours, Sara got a strike and "landed" the trout. I suggested she just sling the trout into the bushes and I would go find it if it came off. As luck would have it, the fish came unhooked and landed on the bank less than a foot from the creek. I did my best mountain lion imitation and pounced on top of the 4-inch trout. Note: None of the above methods are approved by Trout Unlimited. I did manage to revive the fish, but am certain it needs a few weeks of therapy before returning to normal. It's memories like these that keep us fishing.

The June Chapter meeting will feature the presentation of the Eddy George Award. The Eddy George Award is presented to the person with the greatest number of volunteer hours in support of the Fisheries Department on the Tennessee side of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Bob Bishop, President



Sawmill Canyon Creek and Sara's Yellowstone Cutthroat to finish the Utah Cutt Slam. Congratulations Sara!

JUNE 22 @ BLUETIK TAVERN IN MARYVILLE

Social hour starts at 6:00, program starts at 7:00, business meeting

Ordering from the menu will be in the meeting room from 6:15 to 6:30. After 6:30 you will need to order any food at the bar. Adult beverages must be ordered and paid at the bar

University of Tennessee Ph.D. Candidate Rebecca Smith, will be speaking about the genetic work they are doing for Brook Trout restoration. According to the article Trout Genes, written by Caleb Moses in Vol 6 of The Stream Guardian, she is one of the researchers helping with genetics in Brook Trout restoration.

UPCOMING MEETING JULY 20 at RIVER JOHN'S

More details to follow in the July Newsletter.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Matt Kulp, NPS Fisheries, has emphasized that we stay within the limit of volunteers requested. Too many people causes confusion and there's not enough work for everyone. Richard Barnes will fill in volunteer names as he is contacted. It's first come, first serve. Because it's possible to have cancellations as conditions may change between now and June/July he will schedule two more than requested to cover contingencies.

Richard Barnes, TN Coordinator, can be reached at canceler1@gmail.com or 949-212-8480. TN opportunity will be designated (RB).

Mike Kesselring, NC Coordinator, can be reached at mikessel59@gmail.com or 828-736-6929. NC opportunity will be designated (MK).

Jun 22 - Trout Camp electrofishing demo. #Vol. 2 - 3 (RB)

Meet at Tremont Education Center rear parking lot @ 9:00 am

Need 3 volunteers, plus 2 alternates in case of cancellation! Contact Richard Barnes

Jun 26 -27 - Anthony Creek brook trout restoration evaluation. #Vol. 4 - 6 (RB)

Meet at Anthony Creek Trailhead at Abrams Creek picnic area for transport at 8:30 am.

Need 3 more volunteers for each day, plus 2 alternates in case of cancellation! Contact Richard Barnes

July 10 - Large stream IBI sampling at Cataloochee. #Vol. 3 - 5 (MK)

Meet at USGS Gauge at Asbury Trail Bridge parking lot at 9:30

Jul 11 - Large stream IBI sampling at Abrams Creek. #Vol. 3 - 5

Meet at Abrams Creek Campground Ranger Station at 9:00 am.

Need 1 more volunteer, plus 2 alternates in case of cancellation! Contact Richard Barnes

Jul 12 - Large stream IBI sampling at West Prong Little River and West Prong Little Pigeon (2 separate groups). #Vol. 5 - 7 (RB)

WP Little River meet at junction of Tremont Rd. and Laurel Creek Rd. at 8:30 am. WP Little Pigeon River meet at NPS Headquarters 8:30 am.

Need 6 more volunteers, plus 2 alternates in case of cancellation! Contact Richard Barnes

Jul 13 - Large stream IBI sampling at Nolan Creek. #Vol. 3 - 4 (MK)

Meet at Nolan Creek Trailhead parking lot along Lakeview Dr. at 9:30 am.

Jul15 - Bi-monthly acid deposition sample (NC and TN) #Vol. 10 - 12 (RB) and (MK)

Jul 18 - 19 - Population sampling at Cataloochee Creek tributaries. Strenuous all day sampling efforts with long hikes possible. #Vol. 5 - 7 (MK)

Meet at Cataloochee Group Campsite at 10:00 am.

Aug 28 - 31 - Hazel Creek 3-pass depletion. Strenuous field work. #Vol. 2 (MK) Call Matt Kulp for details at GSMNP Headquarters.

Sep 23 - Little River Trash pickup. Meet at Metcalf Bottoms picnic area 9:00 am.

More information will be available in the August and September newsletters.

TIE AND LIE - JUNE 26 @ CASUAL PINT, MARYVILLE - 6:30



Jimmy Jones will be demonstrating the Ray Ball Parachute Sulphur dry fly. Ray Ball is a local fisherman who can be seen tying during the winter demonstrations at the Little River Outfitter. Jimmy will be demonstrating Ray's unique technique for tying parachutes.

Materials needed are:

Hook - Size 14, 1X long dry fly

Parachute post material - white poly yarn or white calf body hair

Tail and Parachute Hackle - light ginger hackle

Dubbing - light cahill, cream, or pale yellow-orange

Thread - light cahill and red, size 6/0 or 8/0

Head Cement or Superglue



SOUTHERN FLYFISHING HALL OF FAME
BRYSON CITY, NC
MAY 2023

LRCTU member, **Walter Babb**, was inducted into the Southern Flyfishing Hall of Fame. He was recognized as a professional fly tyer and bamboo rod builder. Walter developed many patterns of flies specific to the Smoky Mountain region, including the famous Smoky Mountain Candy. He is also known for his knowledge of the origins of many of the flies used in this region. Walter has so many interesting stories and information to share with anyone that takes the time to listen. From all of us in the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, we are proud to call you friend. Congratulations!

NEW MEMBERS - Len West

Welcome to the Little River Chapter of TU (LRCTU). Our Chapter was established years ago as a nonprofit volunteer organization committed to protecting and restoring cold water resources and watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. We hope to able to offer you plenty of activities to join us in our mission. As a member, you will receive our monthly newsletter issued around the 15th of each month. as well as email notifications of any activities that may be happening during the month. Our meeting is the 4th Thursday of the month (with the exception of July, November, and December) held at the Bluetick Tavern in Maryville. Social hour starts at 6:00 with month's program starting at 7:00 and the Chapter's business meeting immediately following. Feel free to visit our website at lctu.org, contact me at lctu.newsletter@gmail.com or any of the Board Members listed on the website for information.

MEMBERS OUT THERE

Dave Ezell with a very nice brown somewhere in Virginia (his new local). Bob Bishop with a nice brown from the Firehole River in Yellowstone. Tim Hurst with another big one, this time a stone roller?



Joyce Frey
Newsletter Editor

