

# LITTLE RIVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Editor  
Mark Sebby



March 2008  
[www.lrctu.org](http://www.lrctu.org)

## Next Meeting

**When:** March 27, 2008 at 7:00pm  
(4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month)

**Where:** Monte Vista Baptist Church  
1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd in Maryville. The church has an entrance on the opposite side of Hwy 129 between the red light and the Co-op.

**Program:** Jim Habera, TWRA, will give a presentation on WILD Brown Trout streams in East Tennessee. Be sure to mark this meeting on your calendar! Bring a friend. See you there!

## Upcoming Events

- March 15-16: Bass Pro Shops Fundraising Cookout #2 - 11AM to 6PM
- March 17: Pi Beta Phi School Time on the water @ Metcalf Bottoms
- April 12: Little River Clean-Up 9AM - Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area
- May 16: [TROUTFEST](#) Banquet @ 7PM Dinner & Auction - festivities begin @ 6PM
- May 17-18: [TROUTFEST 2008](#) - Townsend

## TU Tennessee License Plate



Time is running short for orders of the Tennessee Trout Unlimited license plate. We have until June 30<sup>th</sup>. 450 of the 1000

needed have been sold. The money will be used for trout projects throughout the state. Show your support and order yours today at [www.tuplate.org](http://www.tuplate.org)

## TROUTFEST 2008 Update

[www.troutfest.org](http://www.troutfest.org)

TROUTFEST is an outdoor festival that is intended to be fun and to entertain kids and adults of all ages. It is held mid-May in Townsend, Tennessee. There is no charge to attend and parking is free at the TROUTFEST Outdoor Festival. It is held at the Townsend Visitors Center for two days.

### Banquet Tickets

It is time to order your TROUTFEST Banquet tickets. The banquet will be held on Friday May 16. This year's location is large tent across the street from Little River Outfitters. This will give us more space and give more members a chance to enjoy this year's banquet. Please send in your order form or pick up your tickets up at our Bass Pro hot dog sale or at our next TU meeting. Do not wait, because orders are starting to come in and you do not want to be left out.

### Bamboo for Brookies

This year's fly rod will be a beautiful 6' 2pc 4wt with extra tip. It is a darkly flamed, hand-planed bamboo rod with root-beer colored wraps, bright nickel silver ferrules/reel seat hardware, burlled walnut reel seat spacer, and a combination cork/rattan grip. It comes with a hexagonal hardwood rod tube and both are contained in a beautiful cherry & maple glass tapper for the bamboo rods.



## Fishing in the Smokies

March in the Great Smoky Mountains – It used to be for hikers only.

Spring is finally here and I know we are all very happy about that. We had a fairly normal winter though the spring hatches didn't begin in February like they have sometimes in the past. Today there is still 9" of snow at Mount LeConte, but by the time you read this it will be long gone.

It is "Quill Gordon Time". That is the hatch we talk about all winter. Of course there are other hatches occurring at the same time and they are just as important to be prepared for, but we all still like to talk about Quill Gordons.

Not so long ago, we would not be fishing in the Smokies during March. It wasn't allowed. The season opened April 1st. We didn't know much about Quill Gordons. We often missed the hatch. The closing date of trout fishing in the Park is one I have forgotten. I am almost sure it was before the brown trout spawned. That was one of the reasons the season closed.

I remember waiting for Opening Day in the Smokies. It was tough going through March, especially on the warm days. We could fish the tailwaters but not in the Park. Then in 1983 the fishing season in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was opened to year round fishing except for Abrams Creek. That was a big deal. Now we didn't have to dream of fishing during March, we could do it.

That changed a lot of angler's lives and habits. We could fish during the months that the brown trout spawned. You could fish during the winter if you wanted to. We did in fact start doing some winter camping and fishing in the Park. We had it to ourselves and we caught trout... sometimes.

Then in 1986 another change came about. The Park Service, under the direction of Steve Moore, opened Abrams Creek to year round fishing. Steve spent two years gathering data so he could make the decision to open Abrams. I remember that well. What would that be like? Abrams was off limits much of the year. We assumed that the folks at the Park wanted to keep it closed for their personal use. Of course that was not the case.

## Fishing in the Smokies (continued)

Management of the Park fisheries has changed over the years thanks to Steve Moore, Matt Kulp, Bart Carter and others. They have the mission to protect the native species, but they also want the resource to be enjoyed to the fullest by anglers. Who would have ever thought those precious brook trout streams would be open for us to enjoy. I am looking forward to the day I can drive up to Lynn Camp Prong and catch some brookies.

Have a great March!

*Byron Begley @ Little River Outfitters, Townsend*

## NEW!!! LRCTU Website Content

Roy Hawk has added a very informative and entertaining video to our website. It can be accessed by following this link –

<http://www.lrctu.org/movies/TheWayofaTrout/>

### ***The Way of a Trout*** ***"A Conservation Classic" © 1969***

Knowing the habitat and the habits of the trout will increase your chances of catching them more often. Through breathtaking underwater photography, you'll look into the world of the rainbow trout.

Never-to-be-forgotten scenes show this great fish's day-to-day fight to survive... from predators who at various stages of growth include aquatic insects, other fish, birds, and animals. And only man, as the ultimate predator, has the alternative to release the trout to spawn another fish.

As conservationist or trout fisherman, you'll gain a fuller appreciation for this beautiful and most sought-after of freshwater fish, and a new respect for the cycles of nature. This is the original award winning 16mm classic production that embodies the values of Trout Unlimited.

Created in 1969 by James Wilkie and donated to Trout Unlimited, "The Way of a Trout" was one of the first films to strongly advocate "catch and release".

## On-Stream Report

The temperatures have been rising and spring is almost here. The bugs on the Watauga and South Holston are thinking the same. We've been on the South Holston once and Watauga twice since last month's newsletter and the dry fly fishing is really starting to pick up.

We experienced a good Blue Wing Olive hatch on the South Holston with just a smattering of Sulphurs. CDC Blue Wing Olive Comparaduns seemed to be the most productive dry fly along with some Sulphurs and Black flies. Zebra Midges in 18 and 20 and Black Fly larva in size 24 produced sub-surface.

On our most recent trip to the Watauga we experienced a great BWO hatch. The CDC BWO Comparadun produced the best during the hatch. We also had great luck fishing Cased Caddis Nymphs and the IKO Caddis. Midges and Black Copper Johns also produced a few fish. Try a double nymph rig in the faster/deeper water and dry/droppers in the slower/shallower water.

Also when fishing dries during a hatch look for out of the way places that may provide shelter and a good supply of food. A root wad or debris that is creating a small back eddy or a bluff/rock over hang is ideal. These areas could hold a big fish. Also as a basic rule of thumb the smallest rise ring is usually the biggest fish. The smaller fish will usually make a splashier rise and the big boys will take their time conserving as many calories as possible.

## On-Stream Report (continued)

As spring progresses, both rivers should continue to have good hatches of BWO's. On the South Holston, look for more Sulphurs as the weather warms and more caddis on the Watauga as we get closer to April.

You can read detailed trip reports on my new website [www.flyfishtennessee.com](http://www.flyfishtennessee.com). Check out the blog section. On March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm I will be giving a presentation about Spring Tail-water fishing and on April 12<sup>th</sup> I'll talk about fishing in the Smokies. Please stop by if you are not out on the stream yourselves.

*Kris Maurer @ Orvis, Sevierville*

## TU TV Guide

Watch for "On the Rise," TU's new television program that will begin airing on the Outdoor Channel this spring --the show takes you on a fly-fishing journey across America, where host Frank Smethurst travels in an Airstream trailer painted like a rainbow trout and visits TU projects around the country.

Is there a Hi-Def Outdoor Channel? (Ed)

## Editor's Note

*Please send newsletter ideas and article submissions to [msebby@charter.net](mailto:msebby@charter.net).*

*The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit volunteer organization that is committed to Protecting & Restoring Cold Water Resources and Watersheds in and around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park*

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**It's time for  
Spring Fly Fishing  
in the Smokies.**

We are ready for you. Are you Ready?  
The shop is stocked with lots of flies  
and everything else you can think of.  
The water looks great and the fishing  
is picking up.

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