

## Next Meeting:

**Where:** Monte Vista Baptist Church  
1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd  
Maryville, TN 37803-5505  
(enter the bldg. from the parking lot)

**When:** 7:00 p.m., Thurs., March 25

**Program:** Ian and Charity Rutter of R&R Fly Fishing will provide insight on fishing streamers. A lot of us chuck a streamer into the water as if it's a heavy nymph and that's just not the way to do it. The Rutters will talk about more effective methods



of streamer fishing from a boat or from the bank. They will discuss equipment including preferred leaders and patterns as well as how to fish those patterns in different waters. Ian and his wife Charity are full-time guides and parents operating out of Townsend Tennessee. Check out their web site at <http://www.randrflyfishing.com/>

## Board Members Meeting Prior to March Meeting:

There will be a short board meeting at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular meeting. All board members are requested to attend.

## Eddie George Rod Award

Famed local fly fisherman and tier Eddie George is commemorated each year with the presentation of a custom rod made by Ken Henderson. This tradition is nearing its tenth year. George, a consummate fly fisherman and tier, and a character to boot, was a Friendsville, TN, resident,

He was a charter member of the LRCTU and is known as developer of several fly patterns including the George Nymph. The award goes to an individual who has demonstrated leadership in service to this chapter and to its goals of improving fishery habitat in GSMNP and surrounding areas.

## Bamboozled

Be sure to bring that bamboo rod you've been hoarding or using to retrieve items from the top shelf to the **next meeting April 22**. We'll have several bamboo enthusiasts with information to impart on use, building and care of bamboo sticks.

In the tradition of "Antiques Road Show", any bamboo rod brought to the meeting will be evaluated and appraised by the group of experts.





## Troutfest 2010 News

We're fast approaching our annual Troutfest event to be held at the Townsend Visitors Center May 14-16. If anyone has something to donate for the auction or can contact someone for a donation, please contact Rufus King at 865-414-2566.

Last year's auction contributed a good deal of money to our overall effort and we hope to do as well or better with the auction at this year's banquet.

An organizational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 28, at 2:30 p.m. at Little River Outfitters in Townsend.

Marketing packages have been sent out to outfitter stores. Ohio and Indiana have been added to the list of target states.

Byron Begley, troutfest chairman reports that although Ohio and Indiana don't have many stores, a lot of customers from those states visit the Smokies. .

## Acid Depositions Ongoing

Stream water sapling in the Park is an important ongoing effort manned mostly by volunteers. Acid rain continues to have negative effects on GSMNP rivers and streams.

Data analyzed from the sampling helps with statistical models that eventually can lead to more restrictive emission legislation on emission producing industries. A sampling is scheduled for this Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22, and future dates. If you can help, contact Charlie Chmielewski at [charlieflyfish@gmail.com](mailto:charlieflyfish@gmail.com) or by cell 865-661-7325.

## Little River Clean Up

Our annual Little River Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 10. This is an event that everyone can enjoy some time outside, help the Park with some litter pick up, enjoy some good food and maybe even get a little fishing in.

We'll meet at Metcalf Bottoms at 9:00 a.m. and split into teams to cover as much of the River Road as possible. For those interested, bring along a rod and enjoy some fishing in the afternoon with a friend.

Mike Stiehl has been our chef in the past, but has a schedule conflict this year. **We need a volunteer cook this year**, so if you can handle feeding a few folks burgers and hotdogs, please give Rufus King a call at 865-414-2566



Enjoying some good food at last year's clean up

## LRCTU Receives EAS Grant

Our TU chapter has been awarded a \$7,500 Embrace A Stream Grant from National Trout Unlimited this year to go towards stream restoration. In the most recent 2010 grant cycle, EAS provided approximately \$125,000 for twenty four projects in 14 states.

Hats off to Gary Verholek, Steve Moore and those involved in our proposal for 2010!

## Water Issues in the GSMNP

Though many of us assume on a trip into the GSMNP that the pristine looking streams and rivers, as well as the wildlife they support, protect and replenish themselves just by nature of being within the protective boundaries of a National Park. This isn't the case. It takes a concerted effort by park personnel and volunteers to care for these aquatic resources both in the near and long term.

An overview of several current issues and projects undertaken by the Park was presented to LRCTU members at the February meeting by GSMNP fisheries biologist Matt Kulp.

Topics covered included: growing otter populations and their effect on fish populations; triploid trout stocking; nuisance species; continued acid rain studies; and brook trout restoration at Lynn Camp Prong and Bear Creek.

Inside the GSMNP there are more than 2000 miles of brooks, streams and rivers. These include geological features such as wetlands and 16 caves. About 30 percent of the streams supports 60 species of fish from 12 different families.

**Otters** are a subject of concern due to possible effects on fish populations. There are approximately 60 otters on Abrams Creek and another 80 on the Little Pigeon, Kulp said, and a total of 383 in the watersheds around the Park. Otters are opportunistic feeders, explained Kulp, eating whatever is available. Crayfish make up the largest part of an Otter's diet, but fish also are prey.

Despite some reports of lower trout populations and a characterized dearth of brown trout in Abrams Creek lately, Kulp said there had been no correlation with other populations such as otter versus trout. "One question to ask is that – during a drought we lose populations of trout. Any decrease could be a combination of otters and drought," Kulp said.

The Park has been observing the State of North Carolina's use of **triploid trout** for stocking. More than 1.9 million triploids are stocked in U.S. streams annually, 800,000 of which are put into NC streams. The advantages of this genetically altered species of trout are threefold, Kulp said.

"Triploid trout conserve the native integrity of species and can help meet angler demand without harm-

ing native fauna," he explained. "It reduces the negative effect of sexual maturation. There is no proteoinosis or negative effect from producing eggs. The fish grow faster."

Triploid are also easier to raise for stocking and there is negative risk of disease factors. The park has no plans currently to start a triploid stocking program, but is interested in triploids due to the possible migration from NC into the Park.

The introduction of **harmful nuisance species** into the park via felt bottom fishing boots is a concern and may eventually lead to a sportsman supported education and awareness program. Of the eight nuisance plant and animal introductions listed, didymo is one of the biggest concerns. The microscopic algae, also known as rock snot, is in all Tennessee tailwaters and is often mistaken for toilet paper or fiberglass hung on rocks.

"Anglers need to add wader and boot cleaning to the fishing experience," Kulp said. The algae can be fought by allowing equipment to **THOROUGHLY** dry, 48 hours or until dry. Bleach can be employed to disinfect equipment as well as storing equipment in a freezer overnight.

Kulp emphasized the importance of **continued acid deposition** and how work to date has helped produce guidelines for future goals and may lead to further emission legislation.

A follow up on current efforts to **repopulate brook trout in Lynn Camp Prong** was provided. Kulp said that volunteers will be needed this year to evaluate fish in Lynn Camp. A population of 200 fish per mile is needed to repopulate a stream. More than 2000 brook trout were moved to Bear Creek and Lynn Camp Prong last year.

On Lynn Camp, there will be a an upcoming one-day trip to evaluate the lower end and another 4-day trip to evaluate the upper reaches.





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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### **Little River Chapter Trout Unlimited 2010 Officers:**

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