

# Little River Chapter

Newsletter

MARCH 2002

Editor Joe Hatton

<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/Littlerivertu/index>



## Next Meeting

The meeting at 7:00 p.m. on fourth Thursday **March 28<sup>th</sup>** will be held at the (**New Providence Presbyterian Church**). This is the big stone church at the intersection of West Broadway and Lamar Alexander Pkwy (US 321) across Broadway from the Maryville High School football stadium. Come to the meeting through the double glass doors on the lower level of the building facing Lamar Alexander Pkwy. There will be a Board before the meeting at the same location at 6:00 p.m.

Sportfishing has been declining for some time and there may not be another generation of enough people to protect our aquatic resources. Our guest speaker, Kim Ryals, will share what's happening in today's world of sportfishing. Kim spoke to us several months ago when she introduced the Chapter to the Mott foundation Program and was one of the two facilitators at the Leadership/Chapter Development Foundation attended by several board members. Kim brings a wide breadth of experience including a MS in Fisheries Management and Biology from Utah State University, where she examined a method using chemical analysis on fish flesh to outline Walleye feeding habits. She co-hosted a TV program on wildlife management. (continued on page two)

## Fishing Picks

By: Ian Rutter: Spring seems to be just about here and the mayflies have begun to hatch in decent numbers. Blue Quill and Quill Gordons are both hatching. Small dun caddis in about a #16-18 are also hatching and early Brown-Stoneflies are buzzing up and down the creeks. Dry fly fishing is still best in the middle of the day but nymphing can be excellent all day long.

If you have the urge to travel, the Hiwassee is at its best from now through May. Caddis hatches are usually the best, but there can be a mixed bag of olives, quills, and stoneflies to keep you guessing. Check the generation schedule and look for one or no generators. A schedule that rotates back and forth between one and none is perfect! Check the schedule for Apalachia Dam, #22 on the phone service.

All your favorite streams will be coming to life. The smaller streams will almost surely fish the most consistently. North River, Middle Prong of Little River, West Prong of Little River, and their tributaries will feature the greediest trout. Larger streams like Little River and Tellico River might fish a little tougher, but opportunities for trout over 10" are much better.

If you can't find the time to get out right now, don't despair. This is only the beginning of a long season. (continued on page two)

**March meeting** (continued from page one)

She co-hosted a TV program on wildlife management. Just before becoming the SE Coordinator for TU, Kim also started Utah's first comprehensive statewide Urban Fishing Program (with a heavy emphasis on volunteer participation) for the state's Wildlife Resources agency before coming to TU. Kim's talk will focus on the future of recreational sportfishing. An exciting presentation with some unsettling facts and figures on how we may be in trouble and why. She will talk about youth and aquatic stewardship and then spend a little time on the Mott program and what Organizational Development can mean to the Little River Chapter.

Before our guest speaker begins, we will feedback the results of the Interest Survey filled out at the February meeting and the results of the Strategic Planning sessions. You may be surprised at some of the results. Will also share what was discovered at our first meeting with the Little River Watershed Association.

**Fishing Picks** (continued from page one)

This is only the beginning of a long season. However, the fishing is excellent and the crowds are at a minimum

**Small Stream Tactics**

By: Walter Babb: Since I started fishing for trout in the mid 50's, I've probably spent at least half of that time on small streams. I've always liked the intimacy and isolation and felling of peace you find there. By small streams in the 10 to 15 feet wide range. Tail-water and western fisherman consider Little River and Tellico river small streams. To me they're large streams and Middle Prong, North River and Bald River are medium size. Some of the streams I fish have pools about the size of bathtub. All of them hold good population

of brightly colored wild trout. Eight to ten inches are about the normal size, although I have caught rainbow as big as 14 inches and brooks as big as twelve. (many years ago) I caught an 18 inch brown in a small streams once upon a time. If it flows into a brown trout streams they will go up it in October to spawn. I never give out names of my favorite small streams, but a little exploration and a good map is all you need. Most of them require a walk of several miles.

I thought I would list some of the things I do that I consider important. Keep in mind this is only one man's opinion and someone else may have another way of doing this, but this system works for me.

1. Clothing; Very important. Always wear clothing that blends into background, olive or even camouflage. I prefer an olive colored vest instead of tan. No UT ball caps please, save them for deer hunting.
2. Rods; I use the longest rod the terrain and the tree canopy will allow me to use. Some of my boyhood streams in the Citico – Tellico area are really grown over and require a 7 ft rod. While most of the tributaries in the Little River drainage allows the use of an 8 or 8 ½ ft rod. My favorite all around size is a 7 ½ ft rod for a 5 or 6 wt line. I prefer double taper line for this type of fishing and I especially like GPX lines in the new willow color. These lines are a half size heavier then advertised. This helps load the rod on a short cast. Leave the one at home. They are too light to load the rod where I fish.  
(continued on page three)

### **Small Stream Tactics** (continued from page two)

3. Leaders: I tie my own leader because I can customize them to suit the conditions I encounter. They range in length from 7 ½ ft to 5 ft. I use mason for the butt sections and ether Umpqua or Ovis Super strong for the tippet sections.
4. Flies; Nearly any fly will work. But my personal favorites are four that have caught fish for me for years. Thunderhead size 12,14 & 16. Western Coachman wet fly size 10, 12, or 14. George nymph, size 10,12 & 14 and Speck, size 12 or 14. When a Thunderhead has caught a few fish and starts to sink I fish it wet. It's a very effective fly on really small waters. I use only one fly on larger streams I fish two flies from 16" to 20" apart.
5. Accessories: Amber polarized sunglasses are a must. Also good comfortable felt soled shoes are essential for safe wading. Breathable waders are life-savers if you have to walk several miles.
6. Casting; Learn how to execute bow and arrow casts, oval roll casts and circle roll you will be able to fish ant stream, no matter how tight it is. The Joe Humprey video on small streams brush fishing is great.

Get your map, compass, tackle and start exploring I almost guarantee you won't see another fisherman. Just watch out for bear, wild boars, rattlesnakes, copperheads and hornet nest and enjoy.

## **The One Day Wonder**

By: Roy Hawk: On December 15, 2001 nineteen [19] rod makers from four southern states converged on Stan Smartt's rod shop in Wears Valley Tennessee to see if 'it' could be done.

The 'it' that I am referring to is building a bamboo rod in a day. Stan Smartt conceived this idea in late Fall and began to gather a group, with only two weeks notice, of rod makers to validate his idea and see if in fact it could be done.

The rod would be used as fundraiser to benefit the Great Smoky Mountains National Park [GSMNP]. The GSMNP was a common interest that all the makers shared and were committed to as well as a reason for some fun and camaraderie. Fortunately the group that assembled, despite each member having different approaches to rod making, was unified on the goal to complete the rod in a day.

There were very few rules given, but Stan had the final say if a decision had to be made. It was agreed that all final planning for the butt sections would take place on one planning form and the final planning for the tips would be on another dedicated planning form. The rough planning could be done on any planning form that was brought.

Light flaming started shortly before 7 am that morning followed by splitting the culm into strips that would become a 7' Garrison 202E [modified] 4 wt, 2 pc single tip rod. All strips were split using froes and taken down to about a quarter of an inch. The strips were then separated into bunches to be used on tip and butt sections. The rough beveling began with members using everything from their steel planning forms to a Morgan hand mill and Medved style beveler. Needless to say there was some good ribbing between the "beveller boys" and the "hand planers". Especially when the mechanical toys caused a problem with one of the strips early on. (Continue on page four)

**The One Day Wonder** (Continue from page three) This was countered later on in the day when a tip section was rendered useless by a hand planer and someone asked, "Where is that beveller?"

Final planning was complete once Stan and the committee rendered the strips to be at the proper taper dimensions. Groups were assembled to work on the tips and butts individually. The teams then glued using Nyatex and bound their sections. Everyone took a late lunch and sampled the sweet treats that had been brought for everyone to enjoy.

Once the glue had hardened, hastened by some heat in the Cattanach oven, to a point where work could continue, the sanding began. Once the enamel was removed the blank began to show its inner beauty. One light coat of varnish was hand rubbed to a 'dry' finish. Ferrules and a tiptop were attached and reel seat and a cork grip were fitted onto the rod after others had finished sanding the cork and filing the guides. The last step was the placement, wrapping and varnishing of the snake guides.

Just as dusk was rolling onto the mountaintop near Stan's rod shop the rod was cast for the first time. There were the usual ooh's and aah's and all present agreed that this was a fine rod made in a day by 19 pairs of dedicated hands. The rod was dipped and left to dry while those remaining celebrated over dinner in Gatlinburg.

In the end the rod was donated for a generous contribution to support the ongoing fisheries efforts in the GSMNP. The new owner enjoys having and fishing the rod...

## The game has started - Batter Up

Here is your chance to step up to the plate and

help the team win. Little River Chapter is looking at the following committees as a way of organizing our work. At the last meeting everyone was asked to sign up for two committees which they would like to help with. Board members will be leading each committee, but we need some folks to call top help as needed. There are many ways that help may be needed during the year such as: a few telephone calls, writing a letter, putting in a few hours work or attending a meeting. As folks sign up we can spread the load and accomplish more. The following are potential areas of service:

Monthly Meetings: helping to find speakers, greeting new folks, planning events, etc.

Resource: helping to coordinate acid deposition and other projects with the Park Fisheries folks and other TU chapters, etc.

Membership: keeping up with current members, contacting prospective members, getting past members active again, etc.

Publicity and Public Relations: helping to spreading the word, contacting newspapers, creating brochures and information pieces, maintaining contact with other organizations, etc.

Fund Raising: planning events, putting together a banquet, working on grants, etc.

Newsletter: contributing articles, finding articles to publish, etc.

Advocacy: keeping up with issues effecting our area, contact with TVA, Government and elected officials, (continued on page five)

**Batter up** (continued from page four) In a way we all participate in each of these areas, but think about two that you would specifically like to help with. You can sign up at etc.the next meeting.

## Stream work

**March 23** Little River Clean-Up Day

Needed 10 - 15 people

Meet at Metcalf Bottoms picnic area (9:00AM). This is the first volunteer opportunity for the year, so get the year started out right and show up for the clean up day.

There will be a cook out after the clean up at the Metcalf bottom picnic shelter. There should be time to get in some afternoon fishing when we are done.

**March 23 - 24** Quarterly Acid Deposition Sample if you have not signed up to be on a Acid Deposition Team, get a hold of Ray Riciputi E-mail waaayout@worldnet.att.net or call 988-8190

## Up coming event

Member with member fishing day is on Saturday **April 20**. Members will meet in the morning at Metcalf Bottom picnic shelter split-up of into pairs and fish until noon and eat a catered picnic lunch at the shelter, cost 20 dollars (fundraiser) pair up and fish the rest of the day

**It's Official - FFF - Fundraising, Food and Fun** - May 18th. The Little River, Clinch River and Smoky Mountain Chapters will join together with The Tennessee Brookies to put on the 2002 Cookout and Auction on Saturday May 18th at the Heritage Park Pavilion. In Townsend. The great event

begins at 7:00 pm but the Little River Chapter members will be involved all day and several weeks before. The Brookies have raised more money in the last few years at this event than all three TU Chapters put together and this year we have an opportunity get involved, have some fun and split the funds raised. More details at the March Chapter meeting but be thinking about how YOU would like to help. We will need tickets sold, folks contacted for items to auction, help setting up and tear down for the Auction and Cookout as well as cooks. What an opportunity to raise some money for our conservation work and chapter development. More details coming but mark your calendars today for the 18th of May.

## Fly of the Month

**Name** Female Adams

**Popular sizes** 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22

**Hook Type** Extra-fine dry fly. Big eye in smaller sizes.

**Thread** Black 8/0

**Tail** Brown and grizzly hackle fibers

**Body** Muskrat or medium gray dubbing, add yellow dubbing for tail section to imitate the egg sag

**Wing** Grizzly hackle tips-upright and divided

**Hackle** Brown & grizzly, mixed





Joseph T Hatton  
 4809 Ridgedale Rd  
 Knoxville, TN 37921

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