

# Little River Chapter

Newsletter

March 2003

Editor Joe Hatton

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



## Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the **Fourth** Thursday March, 27 at 7:00 pm. We are meeting at Monte Vista Baptist Church at 1735 Old Niles Ferry Rd. in Maryville. The church has an entrance on the opposite side of Hwy 129 between the BiLo and the Co-op Gas station.

### Program

This month's meeting will feature Roger Lowe from Lowe's Fly Shop in Waynesville, NC. Roger is a guide and innovative fly tyer. He will be discussing the fishing options in North Carolina and some of the fly patterns he has developed for "the other side of the Smokies".

Upcoming meetings include:

**April:** Member fishing with member day a. k. a. "Drown-A-Buddy Day"

**May:** Rick Bivens from TWRA

**June:** Casting Clinic at River John's

If you have any ideas for topics of future meetings, or if you know someone who would be a good speaker, let me know at any meeting or e-mail me at "trenajim@comcast.net".

## Stream Work

March 22 TN Little River Clean-Up Day  
- meet at Metcalf Bottoms picnic area  
(9:00AM)

May 17 - 18 Quarterly Acid Deposition  
Sample

May 24 North Carolina Trout Festival

## Fishing Picks

By: Ian Rutter We are finally there! Fishing has really come on strong in the mountains. Water levels might be considered a bit high by some anglers but they are really just where they are supposed to be in March. Norris dam is still spilling water but nearly all of the other tailwaters look like they should have favorable wading schedules soon.

I remember not so long ago when the streams were virtually empty in the early season. Apparently word has gotten out about the excellent dry fly fishing that can be found. Quill Gordons are the mayflies everyone talks about but keep your eyes open and you'll see several other insects hatching as well. Action starts in the morning as small dun caddis start to hatch. They are about #18 and you'll probably do OK on dry flies but small Hare's Ear Nymphs will do even better. By mid day you'll see Blue Quills and Blue Wing Olives, both pretty small and dark in color. Several fishermen ask how to distinguish the two. I understand that the Blue Quill has three tails while the BWO only has two. However, I doubt the fish distinguish between the two and a basic parachute pattern in a #16-18 seems to turn the trick. Quill Gordons are relatively large mayflies, about #12-14. They don't seem to hatch in as thick or as long as their smaller relatives but the trout seem to be fond of them.

(continue on page three)

## Fish Shocking

By: Heather Thomas, age 14

I'll never forget the day I went fish shocking with my Granddad (Maurice Ferguson). It is such great experience, and it is so much fun! Fish shocking is a way to check on the fish and the water that they live in and make sure that it is okay. It's not the kind of "shock" you may think of. Trained park officials have big generators are put on their backs that have two poles connected to them. One pole is the pole put into the water for shocking the fish, and the other has a net connected to it to catch them. The shock sends electricity through the water, which is just enough to shock the fish for a little while. For the most part it doesn't kill any fish except for some of the little ones. All of the people helping must wear gloves to keep from being shocked. When a fish is caught, it is passed on to another person behind them with a shorter net, and then it is passed on to another person behind them who has a bucket filled with water and that person puts the fish in the bucket. So, for every person with a generator, there are two people helping him or her, so help is always good to have from volunteers.

I like to help by getting in the water with my waders on and switching out buckets when they get full. We then bring the full buckets back to people who sort, count, weigh and measure the fish while checking for anything else that may be unusual about them. Depending on the elevation, there can be 4 to 26 species of fish. There are fewer fish at higher elevations. I also help by waiting until they are far enough away (so as not to get myself shocked) and get any fish they may have missed.

They separate the river into 100-meter sections and run each section three times. Every fish matters whether they are big or in-

credibly small. Each fish is important. I like the Rainbow Trout. They are so pretty! After all the runs are done, the fish are put back into the river behind the separating nets. It is truly amazing to see how many fish there are in one section of the river. I must admit it is pretty cold when the shocking takes place, but it is fun and also a learning experience. The people are very nice and friendly. I can't wait for next fall to come when the fish shocking takes place! Just be careful not to fall in. Last time we went, my Granddad got soaked!



## FROM THE DECK

By Maurice Ferguson

Over past years we've noticed the lack of respect some folks have for the GSMNP in regards to trash disposal. It seems for many, the old idea that if you throw it out, somehow it disappears is alive and well. This report will cover some complaints, temporary fixes and, lastly, a couple of suggestions for a permanent fix.

Since last December my daily walk has taken me from our house to the Y at the Townsend entrance to the GSMNP. Walking along and looking at the river, trees, various critters and pondering on the wonder of it all, I noticed that if I didn't keep my eye on the ground much of the time I was likely going to fall on my backside tripping over trash. What became ever more clear, as I began taking a trash bag with me and picking it up, was that it was happening on a daily basis. It is possible to fill a grocery bag with trash in the mile and a half from home to the Y nearly every day.

The human-interest end of this is fairly entertaining as I note that some folks seem to have a routine. For instance, the person who buys a six-pack of Coors Light, drinks it, and then disposes of cans and packaging along the roadside and over the bank as it suits them. The smokers who leave behind thousands of filters and plastic cigar holders are having long lasting and possibly permanent affects on the eco system. By the way, Bud Light seems to be the beer of choice. I can't be sure of the favorite brand of disposable diapers. The list would be too long for this newsletter if I mentioned them all.

Now, while the exercise and health benefits of this activity are great; I feel there should be another solution, at least in part, to this problem. I only address that short stretch of roadside. There are a whole lot of miles in

the park and all over the country that are not cleaned regularly, if at all.

### Fishing Pick (continued from page one )

So far Little River has been the most crowded of the mountains streams this season. There are other easily accessible streams that should feature more privacy. The Middle Prong of the Pigeon and Porters Creek both have excellent roadside access in the Greenbrier section of the park between Gatlinburg and Cosby. Those of you with quick access to I-40 can drive east toward Asheville and get to Big Creek almost as quickly. Take the Waterville exit just inside North Carolina and follow the signs a few miles into the park. Access is great around the Big Creek Campground and those who want to hike upstream a little way will find beautiful water and greedy rainbows. Tellico River will be crowded with bait fishermen but North River is a superb wild trout stream that is shadowed by a gravel road and sees only a small fraction of the fishermen that fish that fish the mainstream.

### Cades Cove Opportunity Plan

The National Park Service and Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization will hold public meets to seek input regarding draft "action" and "no-action" alternatives for Cades Cove at the following places:  
 Mon. 3/31/03, 6 - 8:30 p.m. Heritage High School, Maryville  
 Tue. 4/1/03, 6 - 8:30 p.m. UT Conference Ctr, 600 Henley Drive, Knoxville  
 Thurs. 4/3/03, 6 - 8:30 p.m. Pigeon Forge High School

## The Biggest PR event of the Year for Little River Chapter

Our Chapter is a Sponsor of this year's Little River CleanUp/ RoundUp thanks to the \$1000 Grant the chapter received from TWRA. LRTU will be getting plenty of PR in the announcements and newspapers. So mark your calendars for Sat April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Check-in for the clean up will be at the Thompson Brown House (TBH) on Lamar Alexander (US 321) across from Blount Memorial Hospital and down the hill from the Justice Center. Check-in begins at 9a.m. , Clean-up along the Little River is from 10a.m. to 2p.m. AND the party (barbecue, awards and music) is from 5 to 8p.m. at the TBH. There will be an Educational Fair at the TBH from 4p.m. until 8 p.m. and LRTU will have our display and information available. Volunteers are needed for the following activities:

1. Work at sign up at Thompson Brown House from 8:30 a.m. till 10 a.m. Need 3 or 4
2. Help with trash bag collection at sites from Park to Heritage HS bridge from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. Need 2 to 3
3. Be at our information display at TB House from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Need 1 or 2 at display

Little River Chapter has committed to 1 and 2 and we need at least 6 volunteers. The third is our thing and an opportunity to recruit new members and educate the public about what we do.

Any one attending the barbecue and music can help out with at our display. And you don't want to miss this party – plenty of food, great music, awards and FUN.

4. If you can just put in an hour or more to help clean up the river in Townsend your help is also needed. Make it a family affair and in-

clude children 12 or older. Just sign up the morning of April 12<sup>th</sup>. at the TBH.

4. If you have a boat your help is need on the lower end of the river and canoes can help in Townsend – have boat – call Kristi Falco 681-4809

Any family that volunteers to work and have children in k-6<sup>th</sup> grade can put them in the 4H Day camp located at the Thompson Brown house from 9 am till 3 p.m. To sign up for this Educational Day Camp call Kristi Falco at *Keep Blount Beautiful* – 681-4809

If you think you can help with any of the above call Gary Ramsey at 970-4900 or Tom Eustis at 681-2688 and leave a message on when you can volunteer. Give us a call and mark your calendar.

## The Proud Volunteers

By Jim Parks

On March 8, a banquet was held to mark the ten years of acid deposition monitoring in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

During this banquet, a major emphasis was placed on the importance of volunteers in conducting not only this project, but also the various other projects within the Park over the years. Old photos were shown, and stories told of volunteers working in other projects such as stream monitoring, trash pick-ups, and stream stabilization. I could not help but notice that Trout Unlimited was not only tops in the number of volunteer hours of any organization, but also was by a huge margin. This says a lot about our chapter. While some TU chapters have struggled over their individual mission and seemingly have lost their direction, our chapter has maintained a clear vision and has excelled through thousands of hours of hard work and dedication. (continued on page five)

**The Proud Volunteers** (continued from page four) We have something to be proud of! From January 2002 through September 30, 2002, our chapter has logged a total of 1,475 hours of volunteer work in various areas! Our volunteer work not only assists the Park in protecting and restoring our fragile watersheds, but often these same hours are matched with monetary grants to further assist the Park in reaching their objectives. Essentially, our volunteer hours are multiplied, which is a great investment in our environment. My hope is to see our hours continue to grow and exceed the 2,000 hour mark this year. But we still need your help. If you are interested in working in the greatest office in the world and meeting others with a sincere desire to give something back to the Park, contact any of our officers. We will gladly discuss projects currently underway that can fit your schedule and interests. Here is a summary of the 2002 Little River Chapter of TU volunteer hours.

## Little River Clean-Up Day

**March 22** 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.

## Household Hazardous Waste

On March 29 there will be a Household Hazardous Waste collection at the Blount County Court House from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year they will be accepting computers and televisions besides all the stuff they have taken in the past. Take advantage of this and keep Blount beautiful and safe.

## Public Meeting on Water Quality in March

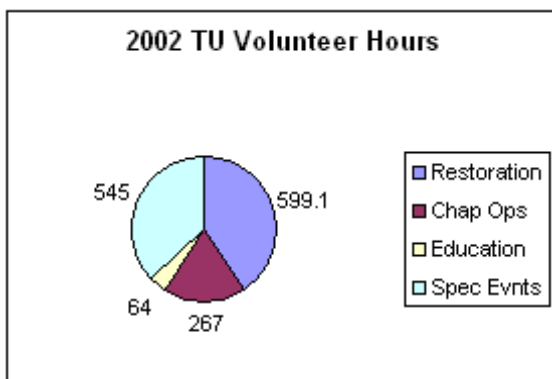
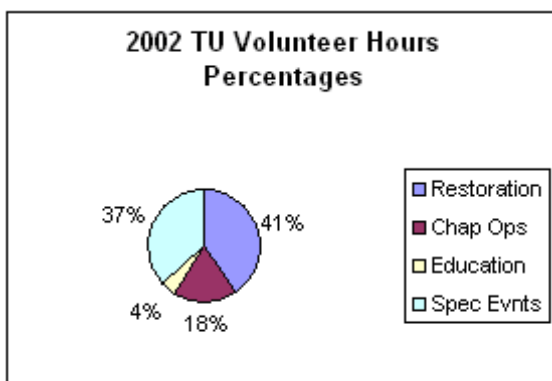
Water Quality Control Board of the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation will hold two public meetings in Knoxville to review proposed amendments to water control rules and to receive public input on the proposed changes. The meetings are scheduled for March 31st at:

1. Main Conference Room, Knoxville Environmental Assistance Center, 2700 Middlebrook Pike at 1:30 p.m. EST.
2. Goins Bldg Auditorium. Pellissippi State, 7:00 p.p. EST

To see summary of proposed revisions:

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/o2TAR%20NOTICE.pdf>

To review proposed standards: <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/water.htm>



## The Beat Goes On

2003 is shaping up to be a great year with opportunities for everyone both in the field and on the stream. There is a great need for help in the Park. The Blount County Little River Clean-up is on April 12th. and we need your help in Townsend that day. Ken Jones is working on a youth project and could use your help. We need 5 to 8 folks to help out with the Kid's Fishing Derby at the Alcoa Duck Pond June 7th. Later this year help will be needed for water sampling on Short Creek in Townsend area. We have been awarded our second Mott Migrant to hold a Public Relations Workshop for TN and NC TU chapters and will need some help putting that together. Unfortunately we did not received a Grant from the World Wildlife Fund for work on Bear Creek, but they know who we are and we can try again next year. The Brookies will hold their 6th Annual Fly Fishing Clinic and Cookout with Auction in May. So mark your calendars and get involved this year and bring a friend along.

## Help us spend more money on Trout & Conservation

If you are getting the newsletter by US Postal service and you have email, we can save the cost of postage and printing by sending you the newsletter by email or you can go to <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/Littlerivertu/index.html> website and get the newsletter. Then the dollars saved can go toward our mission. P. S. If you change your e-mail address please send it me at [jthatton@comcast.net](mailto:jthatton@comcast.net). Thanks, Joe

## THANK YOU!!!

In 1992, Byron Begley came to my office to let me know that the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited had just formed and that their purpose was to support the Park's fishery program. He also stated that he was ready to assist me with making needed changes to fishing regulations. My response was that if regulations were all that the chapter was interested in working on, then there was nothing to do. Byron was rather shocked at this statement. Then I indicated that if the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited was interested in collecting scientific data that would tell why and how fish populations changed and what was affecting them, then we had a lot to work on.

Saturday evening, March 8, 2003 park fishery staff held a Fisheries Volunteer Appreciation Banquet in Townsend, TN. The slide show that kicked off the evening highlighted many of the accomplishments over the years. Without doubt, this show brought back many fond memories for all present. Later that evening, Dr. Bruce Robinson gave an excellent overview of water quality analyses at UT and presented information on all that has been learned in the last ten years. Following his presentation, an awards ceremony that recognized 20 volunteers, selected by a panel of their peers for outstanding service to the Park's fishery program. Joe Hatton was recognized as "Mr. Volunteer" for his continuous outstanding volunteer service in the last 10 years. He was given a beautiful hand carved brook trout in recognition for his efforts. Awards were also given to Carroll Schell, Bruce Robinson, Matt Kulp and John Hammonds. (continued on page seven)

THANK YOU!!! (continued from page six)  
All volunteers present received a beautiful T-shirt commemorating the accomplishments over the years as a thank you for making these accomplishments possible.

Matt, John and I sincerely thank you for contributing your time and financial resources over the years. Your assistance has helped us to achieve excellence. We look forward to many more exciting and memory filled years.  
Sincerely,  
Steve Moore, Matt Kulp, John Hammonds

## Quarterly Acid Deposition Sample

Last Saturday was the beginning of our volunteers seasons. There many opportunities to participate in a worthwhile cause. You can start with this Saturday with the steam cleanup and signup for May Quarterly Acid Deposition Sample. If you are interested in working with



Charlie, Powell and Roy

Boork Trout there are a couple of opportunities this year. To get involved all you need to do is get in touch with Roy Hawk our new resource director. You can reach Roy by calling 690- 4795 or E-mail him at [littleriverfly-rods@comcast.net](mailto:littleriverfly-rods@comcast.net)

## Fly of the Month

### Quill Gordon

#### MATERIALS

**HOOK:** Mustad 94833, 94849, or Tiemco 5230 (# 12 to 14)

**HREAD:** Olive or gray

**HACKLE:** Blue dun stiff

**WING:** Barred woodduck flank, or mallard dyed wood duck

**BODY:** Stripped herl from the peacock eye

**TAIL:** Stiff dun hackle fibers



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