

Little River Chapter Newsletter

Chapter President / Editor
Joe Hatton



March 2005
www.lrcu.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on the Fourth Thursday March. the 24, at 7:00 P.M. 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 Bi-Lo and the Co-op Gas station.

Program

Walter Babb will be giving a presentation on early season trout fishing. Walter is a guide and fly fishing instructor with Little River Outfitter's in Townsend.

Stream work

April 16: TN Little River Clean-Up Day-meet at Metcalf Bottoms picnic area (9:00AM)

April 23: LRTU Townsend Clean-Up

Board Meeting

Thursday Feb. the 24, at 6:00 P.M. Before the regular meeting. The meeting subjects: Troutfest update, Gary Verholek Troutfest media coordinator will give us his plans for Troutfest advertising. We are going to try to get more newspaper exposure this year. All coordinators need to give updates on thier progress so we can give extra help where needed. All Board Members and Troutfest coordinators need to attend.

Fishing Picks

By: Ian Rutter

March has certainly come in like a lion! The last half of February had relatively mild winter weather and excellent afternoon hatches on the larger mountain streams. March is barely a week old and we're on the usual weather rollercoaster as winter and spring trade punches. I've already seen 60 degrees and sunny as well as snow and 25 on Little River just this week.

Right now the key to success on the mountain streams is to stay in the lower elevations and fish long runs. Pocket water may be productive when the water is warmer, but right now you should steer clear of the rough stuff. Snow melt continues to keep water temperatures in the deep freeze. Only brief forays above the 40 degree mark have kept the fish active more than a few hours. However, good hatches have been coming off in spite of water temperatures in the high 30's. All of this should change in the next few weeks though. Water should get warmer and the fish should be active more than just a few hours a day. Within a month the fishing will be excellent all day long as the volatile weather of March gives way to the warm, pleasant days of April. [continued on page two]

Fishing Picks [continued from page one]

The tailwater picture ranges from good to grim depending on the river. The Clinch has had only a few days of fishable generation schedules. Water releases should lighten up shortly, but the wet weather we've had will likely contribute to less days with a minimum flow this spring. Recreational releases are the probable watch words for fishing there this season. The Hiwassee is manageable to wade in a few spots right now since TVA currently has a flow regime of one generator on the river around the clock. This allows wading in a number of locations and is also a good schedule for anyone that has a pontoon fishing craft. The South Holston is easily the best current pick for the tailwater with the best schedule and best fishing. Blue wing olive hatches provide good if not challenging dry fly fishing. Fish rise to these mayflies along with midges when flows are wadeable. Come with a good selection of flies and a good attitude since these fish will often test your patience. The Watauga also has good schedules for the wading angler and fish are rarely as selective as those on the South Holston. Again, midges and olives are the hatch du jour.

CAMPFIRES

By: Jim Parks

Since the dawn of man, fire has been a source of life, an early pursuit of survival. Often, in life-threatening situations in wilderness areas, fire is the first commodity sought. Fortunately, I've yet to find myself in a "must have fire to survive" situation, excluding my early paranoid hours of the blizzard of '93. I love the smell of a campfire. After a long day of

fishing, it is a wonderful aroma to behold, as you walk down the trail, catching a hint of burning wood in the air, and knowing that camp is over the next rise or just around the bend. Whether the desire for a campfire is instinctive, learned, or genetic is debatable. Personally, I'd lean towards genetics. I've pondered my dad's behavior a time or two. His usual conduct is typified by an incident on Hazel Creek. We had just arrived at camp, still daylight, eighty degrees and I was still strapped to my backpack, meanwhile my dad was hard at work saying "Gotta have a fire, just ain't campin without a fire".

To further enhance my belief in genetic desires for a campfire, I've observed my nephews poke and play with the flames. They stand as close as possible ever readjusting the coals and wood, attracted like moths to the fiery tongues. The elders, sitting around camp, would always warn them that to play with fire before going to bed would make them bed-wetters. Fortunately, I always had a tent to myself and never found the truth to that tale.

I've searched the soul of a fire, looking into the depths of the yellow and orange flames. I've been drawn into an almost hypnotic trance only to be snapped back to reality by burning eyes from the smoke. Like everyone at some time, no matter where I sit I get more than my share of smoke. Like life, sometimes we feel the warmth and admire the beauty; sometimes we get smoked. One cannot enjoy a campfire long without experiencing the good and bad times. I've sat by and listened as the world's problems were solved around campfires.

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Campfires [continued from page two] Politics and religion are singed away leaving pure thought, allowing us to clearly consider alternative ideas. Trance and philosophy are intertwined. A person's spirit revealed leaving core values exposed. Life experiences, shared and considered by all as equals, are not to be judged or questioned.

A campfire is a natural point of collapse and revelation. Animals are drawn to fire, some burned. Memories of fires past surface to bridge the then and now. All past fires melt into one; this one. Without effort, I see other fires. That same trance. Often different souls are bared to the rhythmic snaps of the flames, different characters in the same story. Without going too far, to total collapse, we are cast back to the now by the falling coals, revealing to us that life goes on often pulling us with it, as gravity pulling at the embers.

There's a special bond around a campfire. Sometimes words are neither shared nor exchanged, only the warmth, light, and crackling of the flames. Only a creek can rival a campfire's ability to fill a silent void in time. Nature's harmonic duo of fire and water, as one stares into the embers can displace the soul to a carefree space where time is absent. A place to ponder thoughts of a day well spent on the stream and tomorrow's promise. Promise leads to hope, from hope springs life, and from life the ability to enjoy all things. Like hope, fire has no definite boundaries, shape, or color. It is something best felt.

As with all things, campfires eventually die. They expire of old age by using up their resources, or have their life

shortened when no longer desired. As strange as it may sound, I've always preferred to put a fire out before it's natural end. Unlike life, the fuel which once fed an old fire can renew another. I like it that way....knowing there's always another campfire yet to be.

Hatch chart

This months Hatch chart is posted on the Newsletter web page at www.lrctu.org

Fly of the Month

Quill Gordon

Hook: Mustad 94840

Hook size: 10-20

Thread: pale yellow 6/0

Wing: wood duck flank, upright and divided

Tail: rusty blue dun hackle fibers

Body: stripped white/dark peacock quill

Hackle: rusty blue dun





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